

Year 5: Local area study - Birmingham during World War 2

Key Vocabulary

air raid shelter	A shelter used to stay safe from dropping bombs during air raids.
appeasement	An act of giving the opposing side what they want in order to avoid further disagreement.
Blitz	The air raid attacks during the war
dynamite	An explosive that was used to make bombs.
evacuation	The removal of children from places of danger such as cities.
industrial	Having large areas of factories
rationing	The limiting of items during WW2
treaty	An agreement between states.
Spitfire	A WW2 fighter plane built in Birmingham

What was the role Birmingham played during WW2?

After the industrial revolution, Birmingham had many factories and was an important industrial city where lots of goods were produced.

Land, such as that at Castle Bromwich was developed in order to produce items needed to fight the war.

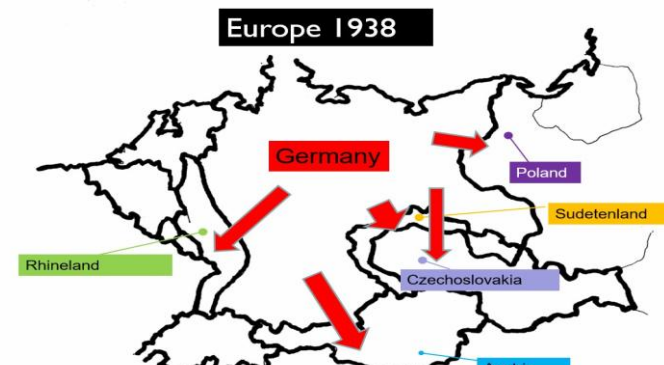
- The Castle Bromwich airfield site became the spitfire factory.
- Hercules bike factory began making bombs
- Even Cadbury's were involved with their 'misery vans' bringing hot chocolate to victims of the bombings.

Why were children evacuated from Birmingham?

Large cities such as Birmingham were targeted during the war. Birmingham also had a lot of industry making it a bigger target.

The government encouraged parents to allow their children to be evacuated to more rural areas that were considered safer. During periods of heavy bombings, more children were evacuated to get them to safety.

Why did Britain have to go to war?



The leader of Germany, called Adolf Hitler, started to build his armed forces and left the treaty that was set up after World War I to keep peace.

He moved his troops into other countries, taking over their land. Eventually in 1939, Britain intervened and went to war.

What does the evidence we have used tell us about life in Birmingham during WW2?

Accounts from people who lived through the war show us that evacuation and bombing took place.



Photographs and real life accounts tell us that people used air raid shelters during the bombings.

Photographs show us that children still went to school during WW2 but had to practise 'air raid drills'.



Photographs from the time show us that shops were still open but accounts from people help us to understand that there were shortages and why rationing was introduced.

