

**World War II
from the
Blitzkrieg to Operation
Sea Lion**

In World War II there were two alliances that "sprang" up: Axis and Allies

Adolf Hitler was determined to give the Germans more land and to avenge the Treaty of Versailles. He joined with Benito Mussolini a fascist in Italy and Emperor Hirohito from Japan.



Germany, Italy, and Japan = Axis Powers

The Allies were slow to form because at first no one wanted another World War but it was inevitable...

When they were complete the Allies were:

**-Great Britain, France, Russia, & the United States
There were others who identified with the Allied cause but since Hitler had already defeated them...**



As Hitler came to power he began amassing territory with little oppositor

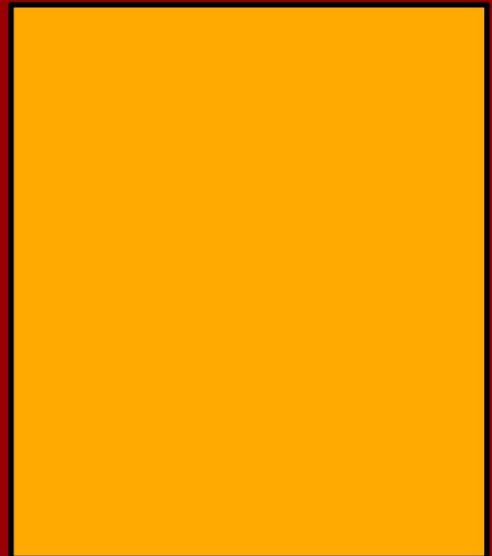


Territories Hitler took:
-the Rhineland
-Austria
-Czechoslovakia
-Sudetenland

Great Britain urged countries to follow a policy of appeasement to keep peace in Europe.

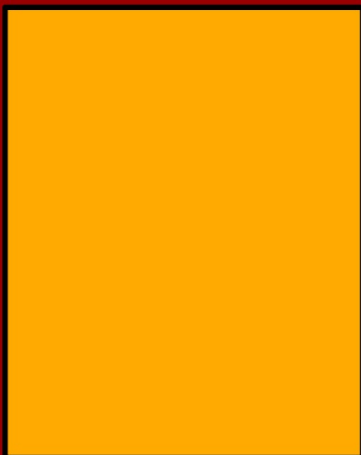


Sum up appeasement



Then, Hitler began looking towards Poland...

What could
Germany gain
from taking
Poland?



Hitler made a surprise attack on Poland that would begin World War II on September 1, 1939.

Airplanes dropped bombs, tanks, invaded on land with troops behind them. It was Hitler's first test of the military strategy of Blitzkrieg.

-Blitzkrieg means "Lightning War" or using all of your military forces at once, take the enemy by surprise and win without opposition

France and Great Britain declared war on September 3rd, 1939.

After the declaration it was seven months before another battle. French troops stationed along their border with Germany actually just started marching towards Germany b/c they were bored!

**Hitler then attacked Denmark and Norway which fell; he planned to use them to attack England.
-Denmark fell in FOUR HOURS!**

This is the extent of Hitler's empire at the height of his power...



May 1940-The invasion of France occurred from many different borders causing the French troops to have to fall back several times.

Germany forced the French troops to a port city called Dunkirk with nowhere to go except out to sea.



Great Britain was called on to rescue the French Allied troops at Dunkirk...guess what they used..

Ships!



Yachts!



BOATS!

With the attack/defeat of France almost certain Italian leader Mussolini declared war on France & England

Now only Britain stood in opposition to the Nazi's. Hitler named his invasion "Operation Sea Lion.'

Here's the plan:

- 1. Defeat the Royal Air Force**
- 2. Defeat the Royal Army**
- 3. Invade England by boat**



Hitler had twice as many planes and used them to bomb factories & airbases. Later he attacked cities.

Citizens in London hid in bunkers, subway stations etc. to escape fire from explosions. They used black out curtains to confuse the Germans so the Germans used the Thames @ night to see.

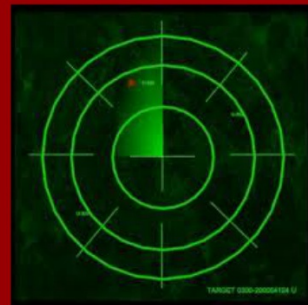
Two other weapons helped the British resist the Nazi:

The Enigma



&

Radar



Hitler turned his attention towards the oil rich Middle East and Mussolini wanting to prove his worth invaded British Egypt.

Mussolini's forces were almost defeated until Hitler sent troops to save him.

Hitler gained part of the Middle East & used that oil to prepare for a Russian Invasion to begin in June 1941 He thought he could Blitzkrieg Russia..

Stalin, the ruler of Russia, decided if Hitler was going to repeat history so would he...

How did the Russians defeat Napoleon as he invaded?



So Stalin did the same thing, Hitler arrived in Moscow in December. Russians attacked with fresh troops and as Hitler retreated he left tanks which froze along with the fuel. Hitler lost 500,000 soldiers

