**World War II Timeline**

World War II lasted from 1939 to 1945. There were several major events leading up to the war and then during the war. Here is a timeline listing some of the major events:   
  
**Leading up to the War**   
  
**1933 January 30** - Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany. His Nazi Party, or the Third Reich, takes power and Hitler is essentially the dictator of Germany.   
  
**1936 October 25** - Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy form the Rome-Berlin Axis treaty.   
  
**1936 November 25** - Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan sign the Anti-Comintern Pact. This was a pact against communism and Russia.   
  
**1937 July 7** - Japan invades China.   
  
**1938 March 12** - Hitler annexes the country of Austria into Germany. This is also called the Anschluss.   
  
**World War II**   
  
**1939 September 1**- Germany invades Poland. World War II begins.   
  
**1939 September 3**- France and Great Britain declare war on Germany.   
  
**1940 April 9 to June 9** - Germany invades and takes control of Denmark and Norway.   
  
**1940 May 10 to June 22** - Germany uses quick strikes called blitzkrieg, meaning lightning war, to take over much of western Europe including the Netherlands, Belgium, and northern France.   
  
**1940 May 30** - Winston Churchill becomes leader of the British government. 

**1940 June 10** - Italy enters the war as a member of the Axis powers.   
  
**1940 July 10** - Germany launches an air attack on Great Britain. These attacks last until the end of October and are known as the Battle of Britain.   
  
**1940 September 22** - Germany, Italy, and Japan sign the Tripartite Pact creating the Axis Alliance.   
  
**1941 June 22**- Germany and the Axis Powers attack Russia with a huge force of over four million troops.   
  
**1941 December 7**- The Japanese attack the US Navy in Pearl Harbor. The next day the US enters World War II on the side of the Allies.   
  
**1942 June 4**- The US Navy defeats the Japanese navy at the Battle of Midway.   
  
**1942 July 10** - The Allies invade and take the island of Sicily.   
  
**1943 September 3** - Italy surrenders to the Allies, however Germany helps Mussolini to escape and set up a government in Northern Italy.   
  
**1944 June 6** - D-day and the Normandy invasion. Allied forces invade France and push back the Germans.   
  
**1944 August 25** - Paris is liberated from German control.   
  
**1944 December 16** - The Germans launch a large attack in the Battle of the Bulge. They lose to the Allies sealing the fate of the German army.   
  
**1945 February 19** - US Marines invade the island of Iwo Jima. After a fierce battle they capture the island.   
  
**1945 April 12** - US President Franklin Roosevelt dies. He is succeeded by President Harry Truman.   
  
**1945 March 22** - The US Third Army under General Patton crosses the Rhine River.   
  
**1945 April 30** - Adolf Hitler commits suicide as he knows Germany has lost the war.   
  
**1945 May 7** - Germany surrenders to the Allies. 

**1945 August 6**- The United States drops the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. The city is devastated.   
  
**1945 August 9** - Another atomic bomb is dropped on Nagasaki, Japan.   
  
**1945 September 2** - Japan surrenders to US General Douglass MacArthur and the Allies.