**Social Studies 11 - Second World War**

**Second World War Battles Timeline**

**September 1939: Germany invades Poland. 10 September: Canada declares war on Germany**

**1939-1945 Battle of the Atlantic:**

* Naval war fought in the Atlantic Ocean for the entire duration of the war.
* German U-boats (submarines) attacked ships carrying valuable supplies from North America to Britain. German navy was winning the Battle of the Atlantic for the first three years of the war.
* By May 1943, Allies turned the tide of the battle by a) building more ships than were destroyed and b) cracking German naval code and tracking U-boat movements
* Canada provided half of all naval escorts across the ocean

**April 1940: Germany invades Denmark and Norway**

**May 1940: Germany invades the Netherlands, Belgium, and France**

**May-June 1940: Evacuation of Dunkirk**

**July-October 1940: Battle of Britain:**

* battle fought in the sky between British RAF and German Luftwaffe
* German attempt to soften British defences in preparation for a land assault
* Canadian planes, pilots, and supplies contributed to Britain’s victory

**June 1941: Germany invades the Soviet Union (largest land assault in history)**

**December 1941: Japan bombs Pearl Harbor, Germany declares war on United States**

**December 1941: Battle of Hong Kong:**

* Japan attacked Hong Kong, a British colony
* Canadian troops were sent to help defend Hong Kong
* First land battle of the war for Canadian troops
* British and Canadian troops were easily defeated. Every Canadian soldier was either killed or captured

**August 1942: Dieppe:**

* a brutal defeat for Canada
* Canadian troops selected to make main assault against German forces
* Canadian soldiers landed on the beaches in broad daylight and were easily cut down by German machine guns
* Out of 5,000 Canadian troops, more than 3,000 were killed, wounded, or captured

**TURNING POINTS!!!: Battles of Stalingrad (Soviet Union) and Guadalcanal (South Pacific) both take place between August 1942 and February 1943. The tide of the war shifts.**

**December 1943: Battle of Ortona, Italy:**

* Part of larger Italian campaign, which included British, U.S., and Canadian troops
* Canadian troops earned a victory at Ortona by capturing the city from German forces
* Canada lost over 1,000 men in this victory

**June 1944: D-Day:**

* largest amphibious assault in history and one of the great turning points in the whole war
* the Western Allies open up a second front by successfully invading German-occupied France
* 14,000 Canadian soldiers attacked at Juno Beach. More than 1,000 Canadians were killed or wounded in the first day alone
* after D-Day, the Allies had a foothold on Western Europe

**April-May 1945: Allies liberate The Netherlands, and advance on Berlin.**

**7 May 1945: Germany surrenders**

**6 & 9 August 1945: the United States drops the atomic bomb on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki**

**15 August 1945: Japan surrenders, the Second World War ends**