

Mussolini was the dictator of Italy. When he was a young man he was often arrested for his political activities. He believed that the only way to change society was through the use of violence.

After the First World War, many people were scared that there would be a revolution in Italy, as there had been in Russia. In 1919 they gave Mussolini money to set up the Fascist Party to oppose the Socialists and Communists.

Mussolini's men attacked trade unionists. **He organised his "March on Rome" in 1922.** He and his party promised the Italian people glory and greatness. The king asked Mussolini to be prime minister and Mussolini gradually took more power for himself. By 1927 he was known as "il Duce" (the Leader). **He had become a dictator.** He invested a lot of money in the army. He intended to create a new Roman Empire.



In 1935, to increase Italy's power and his own glory, Mussolini invaded and conquered Ethiopia, a weak African country. **His great friend in Europe was Hitler. They formed an alliance, which they called "Pact of Steel".** This alliance took Italy into the Second World War on Germany's side in 1940.

However, Mussolini's armies suffered many defeats. The Italian government arrested him. German special forces rescued him and put him back in power in northern Italy. But the end was not far away. **When Mussolini tried to escape to Switzerland, he was captured and shot by partisans.** They took his body to Milan where it was hung upside down for public viewing.

involve: have to do with

violence: aggression

to be scared: be afraid of

trade union: worker association

gradually: step by step

leader: boss

intend: want

create: make

increase: enlarge

glory: triumph

invade: march into

conquer: take control

alliance: union

steel: metal

suffer: feel pain

defeat: loss

rescue: save, free

escape: running away

capture: arrest

body: dead person

upside down: the wrong way up

public: for everyone

Write **RIGHT** or **WRONG**:

Mussolini was the King of Albania. ... **WRONG**...

Mussolini was the dictator of Italy.

Mussolini didn't like violence.

Mussolini gave money to the trade unions.

Mussolini was a friend of Hitler.

Mussolini arrested Hitler.

The Pact of Steel was between Germany and Italy....

Mussolini created a new Roman Empire.

Mussolini organized a "March to Berlin".

Italian armies invaded Germany in 1940

Partisans were regular soldiers of the Italian army. ...

World War Two ended in 1945.