

National C of E Junior School

History Topic:

a study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066:

The Battle of Britain and World War 2

Year 6

Spring



Background understanding for teachers and parents

Adolf Hitler had expected the British to seek a peace settlement after Germany's defeat of France in June 1940, but Britain was determined to fight on. Hitler explored military options that would bring the war to a quick end and ordered his armed forces to prepare for an invasion of Britain – codenamed Operation 'Sealion'. But for the invasion to have any chance of success, the Germans needed to first secure control of the skies over southern England and remove the threat posed by the Royal Air Force (RAF). A sustained air assault on Britain would achieve the decisive victory needed to make 'Sealion' a possibility. The Battle of Britain was a major air campaign fought over southern England in the summer and autumn of 1940.

When? (Timeline of key Events)

1930s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A growing threat from Nazi Germany led to the expansion of the RAF and the creation of Fighter Command
11 August 1939	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Dowding System was operational
1 September 1939	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hitler invaded Poland Britain and France declare war on Germany 2 days later Evacuation of British children began
10 May 1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winston Churchill became Prime Minister of Britain, replacing Neville Chamberlain
27 May 1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evacuation of allied soldiers from Dunkirk began
10 July 1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Battle of Britain began
13 August 1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany began attacking British air fields and radar 'Eagle Day' - The Luftwaffe carried out 1486 missions
20 August 1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winston Churchill made famous speech about troops involved in the Battle of Britain
31st August 1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fighter Command suffered their worst day 39 British aircraft shot down. Luftwaffe over-estimated damage caused
7th September 1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luftwaffe changed attack to London— the 'Blitz' began.
15th September 1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fighter Command repelled a massive assault, now known as "Battle of Britain Day"
31 October 1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battle of Britain ended
7 December 1941	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japanese aircraft launch a surprise attack at Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii forcing the US to join the war, allied with Britain.
6 June 1944	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D-Day
8 May 1945	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany surrendered—VE Day
14 August 1945	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan surrendered—VJ Day

What? (Key Vocabulary)

Spelling	Definition/Sentence
Nazi	A political party in Germany, who started WW2 and the Holocaust, led by Adolf Hitler
Dowding	Britain's air defence system named after the commander of Fighter Command
Radar	A way of using radio waves to detect objects
Royal Air Force	Today, the British Armed Forces consist of The Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the British Army and the Royal Air Force
Fighter Command	Part of the Royal Air Force, responsible for fighting off the German air attack during WW2
Luftwaffe	The German air force
Hawker Hurricane	A fighter plane which claimed 55% of the German planes which were shot down
Evacuation	The act of leaving a place. Many children were evacuated from large British cities to the countryside which was deemed safer. Known as 'Operation Pied Piper'.
The Blitz	The frequent, heavy bombing of London and other large cities (from September 1940 to May 1941). One third of London was destroyed during this attack.
Dogfight	A battle between 2 planes at close range

Who? (Famous people [from this time])

Air Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed Britain's air defence system In charge of Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain
Winston Churchill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister of Britain (10 May 1940 – 26 July 1945)

Great Quotes

Winston Churchill	'I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat'
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Agreed Real-Life Outcome

Create propaganda posters and writing to persuade.

