

Learning Organiser: Why was winning the Battle of Britain in 1940 so important?

Key objective

Evaluate a range of sources to reach a judgment about why the allies won the Battle of Britain.

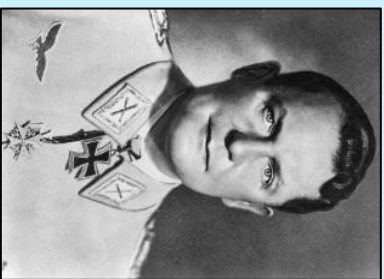
Important people I will investigate



Adolf Hitler:
German politician and Fuhrer of the German Reich.



Winston Churchill:
British politician and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.



Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering:
Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe.



Air Chief Marshall Hugh Dowding:
Commander in Chief of RAF Fighter Command.

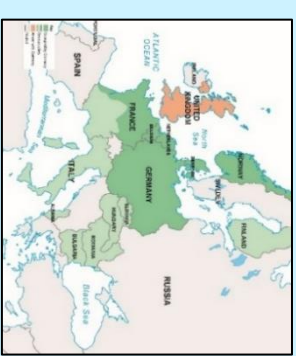
Important concepts I will understand

Causation	The connections between events where one thing happens as a result of another.
Significance	Identifying events, sources, people, places or ideas which are most important.
Perspective	Seeing events from different viewpoints.
Sources	Evidence that is used to gather information and reach judgements.
Chronology	Arranging historical events in their correct time order.
Empathy	Placing yourself in another's position to better understand their actions.
Conflict	A struggle or clash between opposing forces, interests or ideas.
Alliance	A formal agreement between two or more countries.
Democracy	A form of government where people vote freely to choose their leaders.
Empire	A group of countries ruled by a single person, government or country.
Military	The armed forces of a country.
Power	Having control or command over people.
War	Armed conflict between different countries or people within a country (civil war).
Country	A nation with its own government occupying a distinct territory.

Important subject vocabulary I will learn

Fuhrer	A dictatorial leader with absolute power.
Prime Minister	A leader of an elected government.
Reich	The territory controlled by Nazi Germany 1933-1945.
Allies	Countries agreeing to support each other in times of war.
RADAR	A system for detecting moving objects such as aircraft.
Evacuation	Moving people away from places of danger.
Combat	Fighting between armed forces.
Blitzkrieg	A sudden powerful attack to achieve a quick victory.

Important Places



Western Europe 1940

Dark Green: countries under German control.

Light Green: countries allied with Germany.

Pink: neutral countries.



The Channel Islands

Crown dependencies of the United Kingdom



Dunkirk

A coastal town in north east France from which 340,000 allied soldiers were evacuated to Britain between May 26 – 29 1940.

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Disciplinary thinking skills I will use to understand what I learn

Select	Choosing the information most suitable and relevant.
Synthesising	Bringing together a range of ideas and facts from different sources to develop an explanation.
Explaining	Showing understanding of how or why something happened the way it did.
Empathising	Placing yourself in another's position to better understand their actions.
Concluding	Summing up the main points about something.
Reaching a judgement	Expressing a personal view about something supported by evidence.
Justifying	Giving reasons supported by evidence to show what you consider right or reasonable.
Evaluating	Weighing up and judging the relative importance of something compared with other ideas and arguments.
Critiquing	Considering the validity or trustworthiness of evidence.

Important things I will know, understand and do

Why Britain was at war with Nazi Germany 1939-45
 Why Britain faced the threat of invasion in 1940
 Why Nazi Germany needed to defeat the RAF before beginning an invasion
 What occurred during the Battle of Britain
 Why Britain won the Battle of Britain
 The significance of this victory for Britain

Important historical sources I will use

- Maps
- Photographs
- Pathe News reels
- Speeches of Winston Churchill
- Official orders of Adolf Hitler
- Newspaper reports
- Secret instructions issued by the British Ministry of Home Security
- Comparative data of German and British military strength

Timeline of the Battle of Britain

1940

July 1st: Germany invades the Channel Islands.

July 16th: Germany prepares UK invasion plan Operation Sea Lion.

August 13th: Luftwaffe attacks RAF airfields.

August 15th: The loss of 56 aircraft in a single day convinces German High Command that

achieving aerial superiority is now impossible.

September 7th: The German Blitz bombing campaign against British cities and factories begins.

September 17th: Hitler postpones Operation Sea Lion indefinitely.

October 31st: Last daylight raid by Luftwaffe marks the end of the Battle of Britain.

Important influencing factors I will evaluate



Supermarine Spitfire



Junkers 88



Messerschmitt bf 109



Blitzkrieg



RADAR transmitter



RAF aircraft plotters



RADAR operator Command headquarters