

Did you know?

WHY WAS WINNING THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN IN 1940 SO IMPORTANT?



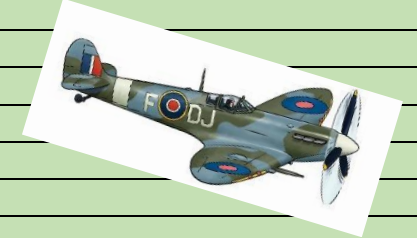
Allies V Axis

The main Allies of WW2 were Great Britain, USA, Russia, France, Australia, Africa and China. The Axis powers were Italy and Japan.



Battle of Britain
10th July 1940
–
31st October 1940

Learning Challenge Vocabulary	Definition
Adolf Hitler	He was the leader of the Nazi party (1933-1945) and became a powerful dictator.
Winston Churchill	The prime Minister of the UK between 1940 and 1945.
invasion	When a group of people use force to enter and control another country.
imminent threat	A real danger (that could cause harm) which could happen very soon.
allies	Countries which join together for a common purpose.
axis	A group of countries fighting against the allies.
Royal Air Force	The UK's aerial warfare force. (The RAF)
Royal Navy	The UK's naval warfare force (The RN)
Spitfire	The main frontline fighter plane in WW2.
Luftwaffe	The German air force.
Kriegsmarine	The German naval force.
Messerschmitt	The Germany army's main fighter plane in WW2.
evacuee/refugee	A person seeking safety after being forced to flee their home due to war.



The Blitz

This was the name given to the bombing campaigns that Germany launched against Britain in 1940 during World War 2. Many towns and cities across the UK were bombed and many lives lost. These air raids mostly took place during the night. Air Raid sirens warned people of imminent threats and people took shelter in Air Raid Shelters which were underground in their gardens.

We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight on the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender."

4th June, 1940. Winston Churchill



How did Britain win?

- Many highly experienced, skilled and brave pilots
 - The RAF aeroplanes were more effective in combat: they had radar systems and held more fuel.
 - Skilled ground crew who maintained the planes.
 - plotters used a new radar system to spot incoming planes.
- Winning the Battle of Britain was so important as it stopped Britain being controlled by Nazi Germany and halted their march across Europe.**

4.6.1940 Winston Churchill makes his speech to Parliament as Hitler continues to march through Europe.

22.6.1940 Hitler takes control of France - Great Britain is the only European yet to be occupied by the Nazis.

1.7.1940 The Germans invade the Channel Islands - just 80km from the UK posing and imminent threat.

10.7.1940 The Battle of Britain begins as the German Luftwaffe attacks British supply ships in the English Channel for the first time.

16.7.1940 Hitler orders his army to prepare a landing operation against Great Britain

31.10.1940 The last daylight raid of the Germans takes place - however the night time attacks (The Blitz) still continue.

What is VE day?

VE day is celebrated on the 8th May as this is the day when Germany surrendered – it stands for Victory in Europe day. The official end of the war was September 2nd 1945 – this is celebrated by Americans as VJ day – Victory over Japan.