

History Topic:

a significant turning point in British history

The Battle of Britain Over 80 years ago

A major air campaign

Thundersley Themes for History



BEFORE: Hitler had invaded lots of countries. He wanted his German armed forces to invade Britain. First he had to secure control of the skies.

WHAT HAPPENED: The Luftwaffe attacked air fields, radar and then London. The Fighter Command stopped the German air force.

AFTER: Hitler could not invade The British Isles. It boosted morale. It gave Hitler less power.

'I am a historian' Key Concepts

Enquiry Ask relevant questions– Why was the Battle of Britain so important? What difference did it make? How can we know so much about the Battle of Britain? What was life like for children during the Battle of Britain? How long did it last and why?

Interpretation Use evidence critically to find out who, when, where, how? Consider different types of evidence, view points and propaganda.

Chronology and Communication Use historical vocabulary: Nazi, radar, fighter command, Luftwaffe, Hurricane, Spitfire, dogfight.

Knowledge/understanding Describe the events on the timeline. Describe the impact on everyday life. Why do we remember?



Winston Churchill	Prime Minister
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CHRONOLOGY	
1939	Hitler invaded Poland. Britain and France declare war on Germany 2 days later
1940	Winston Churchill became Prime Minister of Britain, replacing Neville Chamberlain
July 1940	The Battle of Britain began
1940	Germany began attacking air fields and radar The Luftwaffe carried out 1486 missions
1940	Winston Churchill made famous speech
1940	Luftwaffe changed attack to London—giving Fighter Command time to recover
1940	Fighter Command repelled a massive assault.
Oct 1940	Battle of Britain ended
7 May 1945	Germany surrendered—VE Day

What? (Key Vocabulary)	
Spelling	Definition/Sentence
Nazi	A political party in Germany, who started WW2 and the Holocaust, led by Adolf Hitler
radar	A way of using radio waves to detect objects
Fighter Command	Part of the Royal Air Force, responsible for fighting off the German air attack during WW2
Luftwaffe	The German air force
Hurricane/ Spitfire	British fighter planes
dogfight	A battle between 2 planes at close range