

History – The Battle of Britain – Y5/6 Autumn 1

Knowledge Organiser

The Battle of Britain

Interesting Facts

Great Britain's air force was called the RAF or the Royal Air Force. Germany's air force was called the Luftwaffe.

The code name for Hitler's invasion plans was Operation Sea Lion.

It is estimated that around 1,000 British planes were shot down during the battle, while over 1,800 German planes were destroyed.

Hitler finally stopped bombing London because he needed his bombers to invade Russia.

What was it?

The Battle of Britain was an important battle in World War II.

After Germany and Hitler had conquered most of Europe, including France, the only major country left to fight them was Great Britain.

Germany wanted to invade [Great Britain](#), but first they needed to destroy Great Britain's Royal Air Force.

The Battle of Britain was when Germany bombed Great Britain in order to try and destroy their air force and prepare for invasion.

In December 1940 the dome of Saint Paul's Cathedral in London can be seen through flames and smoke caused by German bombs.



Interesting Facts

The main types of fighter planes used in the battle were the Messerschmitt Bf109 and the Bf110 by the German Luftwaffe and Hurricane Mk and Spitfire Mk by the Royal Air Force.

The leader of the German Luftwaffe was Herman Goering. The leader of the Royal Air Force was Sir Hugh Dowding.

Germany continued to bomb London at night until May of 1941. This series of bombings was called the Blitz. At one point London was bombed for 57 nights in a row.

Winston Churchill

1874 – 1965

He was the Prime Minister of Britain on **TWO** separate occasions and led the country through most of World War II. On 20 August he made a famous speech: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."



Adolf Hitler

1889 - 1945

He ruled [Germany](#) from 1933 to 1945. He called himself Führer (Leader).

Hitler believed that Germans were born to rule over other peoples. This led to World War II.



An Air Raid Warden on the lookout for German Planes

