

Lower Key Stage 2 – Forest Academy


World War 2 (The Battle of Britain) – Knowledge Organiser

Key Events		
1939	1 st September	German troops invade Poland
	3 rd September	Britain and France declare war on Germany.
1940	10 th May	The Battle of France begins.
	26 th May	Allied forces are evacuated from Dunkirk in France.
	10 th July	The Battle of Britain begins
	7 th September	The Blitz begins.
1941	7 th December	Japan bombs Pearl Harbour in the US.
1944	6 th June	The D-Day landings.
1945	7 th and 8 th May	Germany surrenders to the Allies. VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) is celebrated the next day.
	6 th and 9 th August	The US drops atomic bombs on two cities in Japan.
	2 nd September	Japan formally surrenders, ending the war.

The Battle of Britain

The Battle of Britain

In July 1940, Germany planned a secret mission to invade Britain. They began by sending the Luftwaffe (German air force) to bomb British ships, airfields and other targets. RAF (Royal Air Force) planes fought back in what were known as **dogfights**.



Believing they were winning, the Luftwaffe moved on to bombing London on 7th September 1940 (the start of the Blitz). On 15th September, the Luftwaffe launched another attack but the RAF fought back and it was clear that the Germans would not be able to win. This date is **commemorated** every year as the end of the Battle of Britain.

A useful website to find out more:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-the-battle-of-britain-and-beyond/zrk847h>

What was the Blitz?

The heavy and frequent bombing attacks on London and other cities was known as the 'Blitz'. Night after night, from September 1940 until May 1941, German bombers attacked British cities, ports and industrial areas. Enemy attacks from the Luftwaffe (the German Airforce) were called air raids.

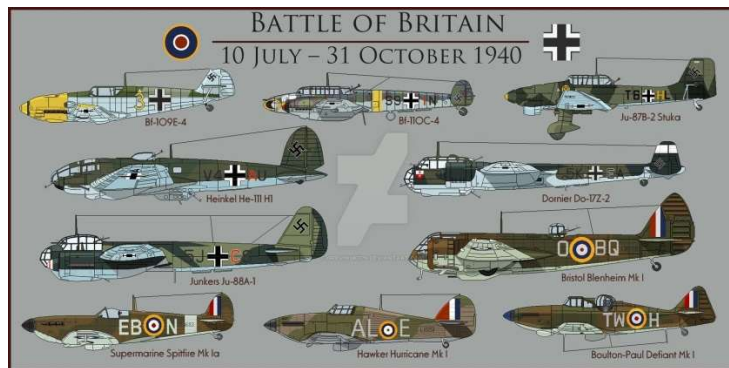



Royal Air Force (British)

Luftwaffe (German Air Force)

Key Vocabulary

Allies	The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China.
Axis	The Axis Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.
Blitz	German air raids on Britain (which took place at night) in 1940–1.
commemorate	Mark or remember a past event.
dogfight	An intense, in-air, close-range battle between individual or small groups of aircraft.
evacuation	Taking people from a dangerous place to a safer one.
Hitler	Leader of the Nazi Party. Became chancellor (leader) of Germany in 1933. He initiated World War II in Europe by invading Poland on 1 September 1939
home front	Doing things at home to support the war was called 'fighting on the home front'.
Luftwaffe ✠	The German Airforce.
RAF 🎯	Royal Air Force (British).
rationing	Only allowing people to have a certain amount of something.




The Home Front

The Home Front




In order to make food and other supplies last as long as possible and ensure they were shared fairly, many items were **rationed**.



The government's 'Dig for Victory' campaign encouraged people to grow their own food. Some people also reared their own animals for meat and eggs. Clothes and other items were mended or made into new things.

Although national sports events were suspended during the war, there was plenty of entertainment. The radio was very popular and people also went to the cinema or dance halls. Children played outside or with board games, cards or handmade toys.



Over 3.5 million people, mostly children, were **evacuated** from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing.

With men away at war, women took on important jobs to help the war effort. Jobs included working in factories, engineering and shipbuilding, driving ambulances and nursing, working as Land Girls or air-raid wardens, or joining the armed forces themselves.

Brandon at War



"It came in low, flying down the Thetford Road, over Market Hill and off down London Road. It was so low people recall seeing the pilot's face. As it passed over Market Hill, the German Dornier 17 bomber fired off a machine gun ... TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT. Bullets hit the ground, around Brandon children on the playground during their lunch break, close enough for some adults to be hit by flying stones. It was a miracle no one was killed."

<http://www.brandonatwar.co.uk/1939-1945/>