

Look at these photographs: What do these show?



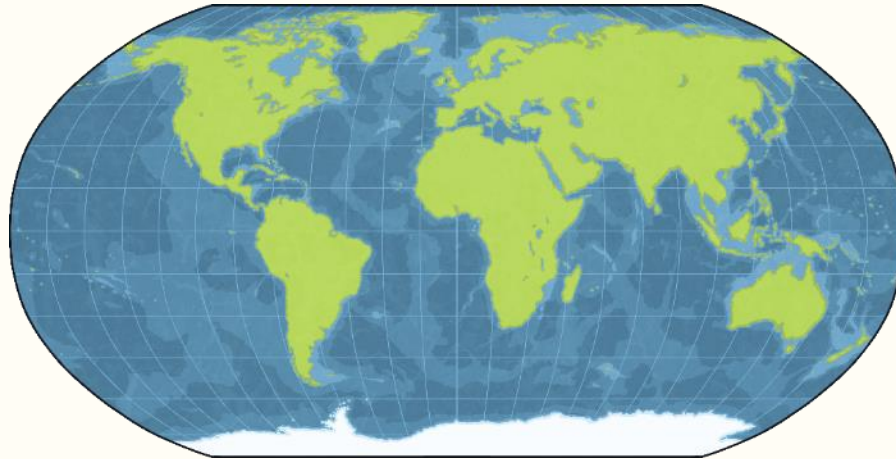
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021

LO: I am learning about  
'The Battle of Britain'.

# Second World War

**1939 to 1945**

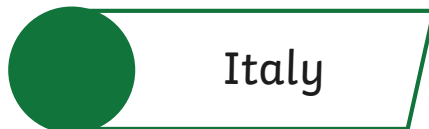
The Second World War was fought in Europe, Russia, North Africa and in Asia and involved 61 countries.



# Second World War

**1939 to 1945** The war was fought between two groups of countries.

## Axis Powers



**VS**

## Allies



# How Did the Second World War Begin?

Adolf Hitler was in charge of Germany; he wanted his country to control Europe. Japan wanted to control Asia and the Pacific.

In 1937, Japan attacked China and in 1939 Germany *invaded* Poland. This is how the Second World War began.



# How Did the Second World War Begin?

After Germany invaded Poland, the leaders of Britain and France said they would help Poland. They told Adolf Hitler that German soldiers must leave Poland immediately. However, Hitler ignored their instruction and so on 3rd September 1939, Britain declared war on Germany.



Another important event during WWII was the  
Battle of Britain.  
What do you already know about 'The Battle of  
Britain'?



# Watch: BBC clip of Battle of Britain.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-the-battle-of-britain-and-beyond/zrk847h>



Now, let's read some information about '**Battle of Britain**'.

The sheet is available on the website, but I have copied the information onto these slides.

### **What was the Battle of Britain?**

The Battle of Britain was the attempt by the Germans to destroy Great Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) so that they could then invade by sea. This was an important battle in the Second World War because, after Hitler and the German army had invaded most of Europe (including France), one of the few countries left to fight them was Great Britain.

### **When did the battle happen?**

The Battle of Britain started on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1940 when British ships in the English Channel were bombed by the German Luftwaffe. It lasted many months as the Germans continued to bomb Britain.

### **Why is it called the Battle of Britain?**

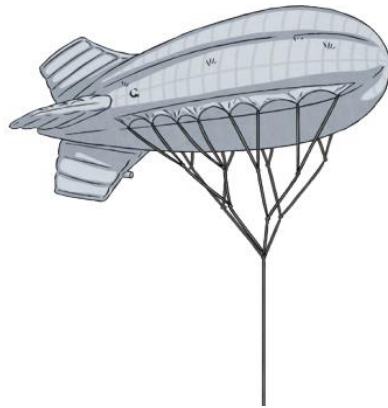
The name comes from a speech given by the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Winston Churchill. After Germany had invaded France, Winston Churchill said, 'The Battle of France is over. The Battle of Britain is about to begin.'

## What was the Luftwaffe?

The Luftwaffe was the name of the German air force. When the Battle of Britain began, the Luftwaffe was at a distinct advantage over the RAF. They had 2,600 aircraft against Britain's 640.

## How did the battle commence?

The Germans began by bombing towns and army defences on the southern coast. However, Britain's air force was a formidable opponent so the Germans changed tactics and began to target runways and radars to try and hinder the RAF.



## **How many planes were destroyed?**

It is estimated that 1,000 British planes were shot down during the Battle of Britain whereas 1,800 German planes were destroyed.

## **How did the British RAF defend Britain against so many German planes?**

The RAF defences were extremely well organised and efficient. Britain was split into groups and sectors with a main fighter airfield in each one. They each organised and deployed their own fighter planes in response to intelligence they received from radar operatives



### **What was the secret code?**

Hitler had a secret code name for his invasion plan; it was called 'Operation Sea Lion'.

### **Who were 'The Few'?**

Due to the small numbers of British airplanes in comparison to the Germans, the British pilots became known as 'The Few'. This name came from a Winston Churchill speech to parliament on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1940: 'Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.'

### **When did the Battle of Britain end?**

On 15<sup>th</sup> September 1940, the Germans launched one of their biggest attacks but the British fighters hit back hard and gained the advantage. Hitler became frustrated as it became clear he could not defeat the RAF. Despite this, German forces continued bombing British cities in a period known as the Blitz. By the end of October 1940, Hitler called off his planned invasion of Britain and the Battle for Britain was over.

### **Which was the most famous plane?**

The British Spitfire plane became a popular symbol of the Battle of Britain. The Spitfires battled with the German fighter planes while another British plane, the Hawker Hurricane, took down the German bombers. Although the Spitfire became the star of the RAF fleet, it was actually the Hawker Hurricane that took down more German aircraft.



We will learn about The Blitz tomorrow

# Task: Design an information sheet about 'The Battle of Britain'.

Use information from 'Battling For The Skies' and 'Battle of Britain' to help you. These can be found in today's Daily Learning Task. You can also conduct your own research to add more information.

## Presentation:

- You can present the work in any way you wish.
- You may use the computer, design an informative leaflet, a double-page spread in your History book....
- In your books, you can use colouring pencils and gel pens (for writing sub-headings).
- If you choose to do it on paper, you can use pens too.
- Organise your work in **sub-headings** and only include important information. Sub-headings are important so if a reader needs to find some important information, they know where to find it.

# Possible sub-headings

When did the battle take place?

What was the Battle of Britain?

How did the battle begin?

Who was involved (German Air Force/British Air Force)?

How did Britain defend itself?

You could include Important Facts, Statistics, pictures, illustrations etc.

Please email a photo of your finished work.