

History Knowledge and Skills Organiser: World War Two - Why was winning the Battle of Britain so important?

Key objective

Reach an informed judgment about how Britain defeated Nazi Germany in the Battle of Britain and the significance of this victory as a turning point during World War Two.

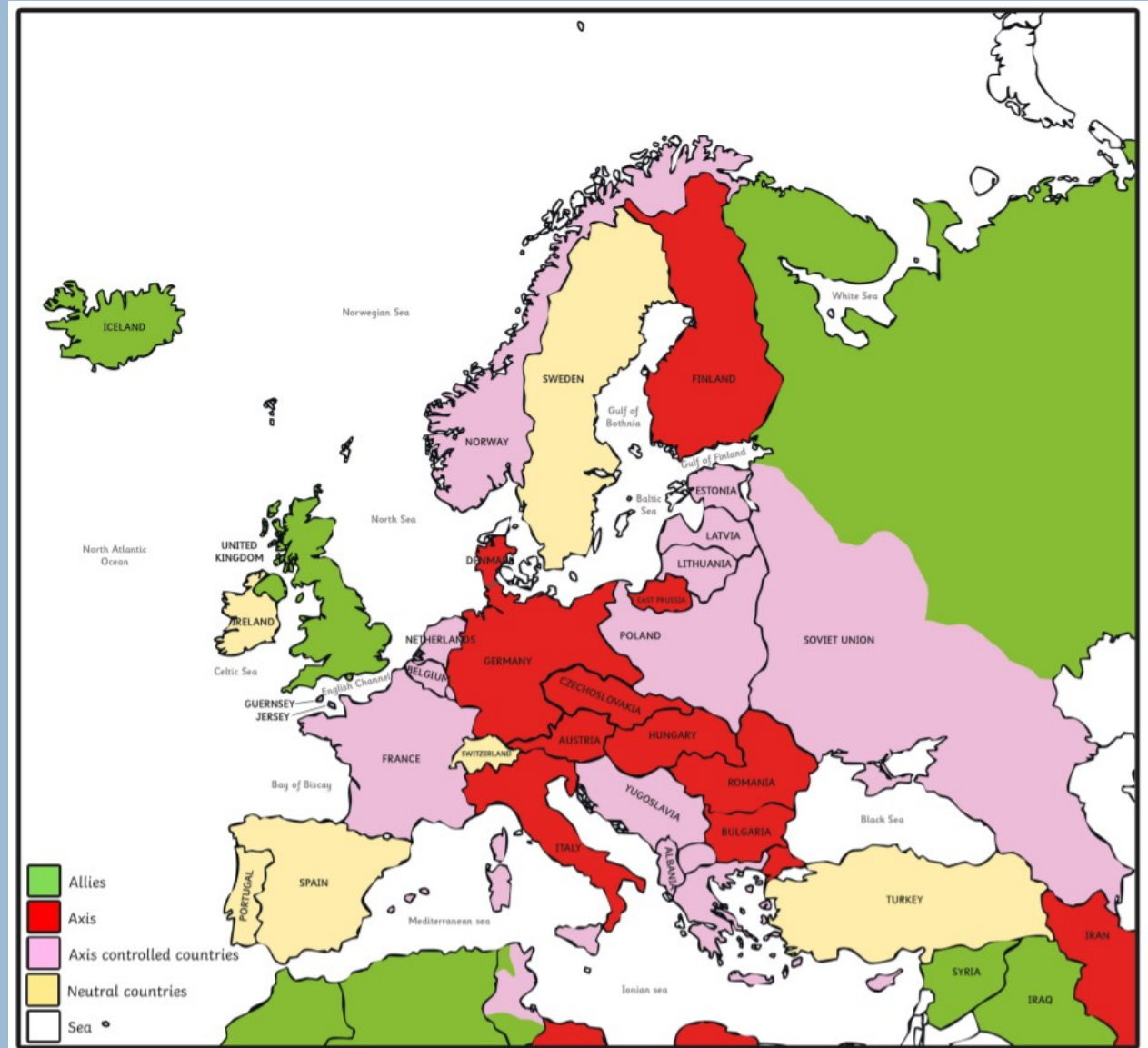
Important things I will know and understand

- Why Adolf Hitler came to power in Nazi Germany
- Why Britain entered into war with Nazi Germany in 1939
- Which countries were allies of Britain in the war
- Why Nazi Germany invaded and occupied most of Western Europe by 1940
- Why Britain faced the threat of invasion by Nazi Germany in 1940
- Why Nazi Germany needed to defeat the Royal Air Force before considering beginning an invasion
- The main events of the Battle of Britain
- The role and contribution of Polish pilots (as well as those of other nationalities) during the Battle of Britain
- How and why Britain defeated Nazi Germany in the Battle of Britain
- The significance of this victory in terms of the final outcome of the Second World War
- How and why our local area was impacted by the Blitz
- Why children were evacuated to the countryside

Prior learning

The most common reasons why tribes, kingdoms, nations and empires invaded the territory of other people will have previously been studied when learning about the Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings during Year 3/4 (land, resources, wealth and power).

Where we are studying: Europe (this map shows the Nazi-led Axis control of Europe gained between 1939 and 1941)



Significant dates within the Battle of Britain (1940)

July 1st: Germany invades the Channel Islands

July 16th: Germany prepares UK invasion plan (Operation Sea Lion)

August 13th: Luftwaffe attacks RAF airfields

August 15th: The loss of 56 aircraft in a single day convinces the German High Command that achieving aerial superiority is now impossible

September 7th: The German Blitz bombing campaign against British cities and factories begins

September 17th: Hitler abandons Operation Sea Lion

October 31st: Last daylight raid by Luftwaffe marks the end of the Battle of Britain

May 11th 1941: Final night of the Blitz

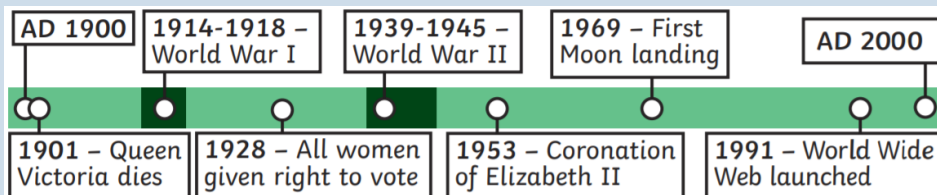
Vocabulary and concepts

Air force	The part of a country's armed force that is concerned with fighting in the air (Britain's Royal Air Force [RAF] and Nazi Germany's Luftwaffe).
Allies	Countries agreeing to support each other in times of war (specifically the nations on the same side as Britain).
Axis	An alliance between countries (specifically the nations on the same side as Nazi Germany).
Blitz	The heavy bombing of British cities by German aircraft in 1940 and 1941.
Causation	The connections between events where one thing happens as a result of another.
Conflict	A struggle or clash between opposing forces or ideas.
Dictator	A leader with full power (Hitler was a dictator as he did not follow the rule of law or democratic processes once leader [Fuhrer] of Germany).

Vocabulary and concepts

Evacuee	Somebody who has been evacuated (moved to a safer place).
Nazi	The Nazis were members of the right-wing political party, led by Adolf Hitler, which held power in Germany from 1933 to 1945.
Occupation	The occupation of a country happens when it is invaded and controlled by a foreign army.
Significance	Identifying events, sources, people, places or ideas which are most important.
Society	A community of people who share a common way of life.
Sources	Evidence that is used to gather information and reach judgments. Primary historical sources are sources from a particular time period, while secondary sources can be said to be about that time period.

Timeline



Historical sources I will use

Photographs, films, recordings of speeches, maps, tables of data, diaries, artefacts, history books, historical fiction

How I will know that I am thinking like a historian

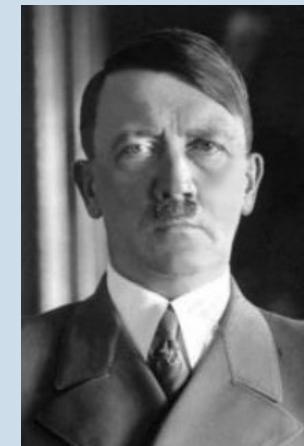
I understand that people's claims about what happened in the past have to be supported by evidence.

I know that historians may interpret and explain evidence in different ways so there can be differing opinions.

I understand how to bring together a range of ideas and facts from different sources to develop an explanation.



Winston Churchill
British Prime Minister



Adolf Hitler
Leader of Nazi Germany



RAF Spitfire



Nazi Messerschmitt