Knowledge Organiser

Year: 6   Subject: History   Unit: What makes the Battle of Britain a significant turning point in the Second World War?

Overview:

During this sequence of learning, pupils will study the key events of the Battle of Britain and look at the factors that influenced the outcome. They will also look at the evidence we have that informed us of the Blitz and how lives were affected as a result of the Blitz.

	Vocabulary:	
What should I already know?		
- The Second World War started in 1939 and ended in 1945. - World War 2 was a battle between two groups of countries. - The previous World War, The Great War or World War 1 had taken place between 1914 and 1918. - Britain had been invaded in the past.	Blitz	Series of aerial bombing raids on cities such as London, Bristol and Nottingham.
Historical Skills:	Propoganda	Information which is misleading to encourage people to have a certain point of view.
- Show an awareness of the concept of propaganda. - Consider the different ways of checking the accuracy of information about the past. - Examine causes and results of great events and the impact these had on people.	Luftwaffe	The German Air force.
What will I know by the end of the unit?	RAF (Royal Air Force)	The British Air Force.
- In 1939, Britain went to war with Germany. This happened after Germany invaded Poland. - It was necessary for Britain to go to war (even though it was only 20 years after the First World War) because of Hitler's invasion plans. Hitler planned on invading England and living within Blenheim Palace. If the invasion was successful, Hitler planned on all the British men being rounded up and used as slaves within camps and factories.	Anderson shelter	A building made from metal which protected people from bombs dropped by planes.
Winston Churchill was the prime minister from 1940 to 1945. He took over after Britain had made a disastrous start to the war. He is remembered for his outstanding leadership during the time and for refusing to surrender.	Retaliated	To make an attack in return for another attack.
The Battle of Britain was the aerial conflict that took place between the British and German air forces in the sky over the UK. This happened between July and September 1940. This was a significant turning point of WWII.	Evacuation	A process where children were moved from dangerous areas in the cities to safer places in the country.
The Battle of Britain can be split into four main stages: Stage 1 – The Luftwaffe (the German RAF) attacked boats in the English Channel and there were widespread night raids. Stage 2 – The Luftwaffe planned to destroy the aircraft of the RAF on the ground or in the air. The raids destroyed aircrafts and airfields which meant it was hard for them to operate.	Allies	Countries that fought on the British side including USA, France and Russia (there were others).
Stage 3 – The Luftwaffe continued to bomb towns, cities and airfields across the South Coast of England. During night bombing the Germans dropped a bomb on London by mistake meaning the RAF retaliated and bombed Berlin.	Government	A group of people with the authority to govern a country or state.

Stage 4 – Bombing continued on London (mainly during the night) but the fighter command fought off the attack which resulted in heavy Luftwaffe losses. This stage of the Battle of Britain was known as the Blitz. This happened between September 1940 and May 1941.

- There were many important factors as to why the British won the Battle of Britain:
  1. Britain used Radar to locate and detect incoming aircraft so that they had a warning before they reached British soil.
  2. The British were able to make planes quicker than the Germans with an average of 550 planes being made a month to the German's 150.
  3. The Spitfire and the Hurricane (the British planes) had better engines and therefore were able to climb more easily; the Spitfire was also quicker.
  4. Britain won the battle of Britain because they were ready and prepared for such a battle whereas the Germans had poor intelligence and tactics.
- Although many people suggest that Britain fought alone in WWII, this was not the case. Britain fought with other countries from the Empire including 2.5million soldiers from India alone. Britain were also supported by Commonwealth countries such as Australia, New Zealand and Canada.
- There is evidence to inform us of what happened during the Blitz as it only happened 80 years ago. This means that people who survived this time were able to give a recount of what happened as well as newspaper articles and pictures which gave us a better idea of the events. The evidence from this time can be misleading however, as there was a lot of propaganda around at the time. This means that the information given by the papers and media was misleading – it led the people to believe that things were better than they actually were so that morale stayed high.
- Lives in London were affected by the Blitz because of the constant air raids. Anderson shelters were introduced so that people could hide during an attack. These were simple shelters with a steel roof (see picture on the right).
- Night bombings were very frequent so 'black outs' were enforced, meaning windows had to be covered so that the German planes bombing would not be able to see the targets so easily.
- Those living in London became so tired with having to vacate their houses into the Anderson shelters that many people moved permanently into street shelters – this helped to develop a real sense of community.
- Many people even resorted to going and living underground in tube stations to protect themselves from the bombings.
- During the war children had to be evacuated because it was unsafe for them to live in cities such as London which were prone to being bombed.
- Evacuation involved children going to live in the country with other families who they didn't know.

Anderson shelters in the garden

Evacuees leaving for the country

Spitfire

Dog Fight