

Year 5 Knowledge Organiser History – World War II – The Battle of Britain

Key Vocabulary

|                                                                                            |                                                                               |
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|  Axis       | Countries that fought with Germany, Italy, and Japan.                         |
|  Allies     | Countries that fought against the Axis, including Britain, France, USA, USSR. |
|  RAF        | Royal Air Force (Britain's air force).                                        |
|  Luftwaffe  | German air force.                                                             |
|  Radar      | Technology to detect enemy planes.                                            |
|  Blitz      | German bombing of British cities.                                             |
|  Evacuation | Moving children out of cities to safety.                                      |
|  Blackout   | Lights turned off at night so planes couldn't see targets.                    |

Key Facts and Events

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|  World War II lasted from 1939–1945.                                                                                  |
|  The Battle of Britain took place in summer 1940.                                                                     |
|  Germany plan to invade Britain was called 'Operation Sea Lion' .                                                     |
|  To invade, Germany needed to control the skies.                                                                      |
|  Britain used radar, observer corps, and barrage balloons to defend the country.                                      |
|  Many RAF pilots were very young (average age 20). And pilots also came from other allied countries including Poland. |
|  Britain's victory prevented German invasion.                                                                         |
|  Civilians experienced air raids, blackouts, shelters, and evacuation.                                                |
|  The Blitz bombed cities night after night.                                                                           |
|  Remembered as a time of courage and resilience.                                                                      |

Key Knowledge

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| <div>Anderson Shelter</div>                                                                                                                                                             | <div>Spitfire</div>                                                                                                                                                                                             | <div>Messerschmitt Bf 109</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| An Anderson shelter was a type of air raid shelter commonly used in the UK during World War II. It was designed to provide basic protection against bombing raids. These shelters were typically half-buried in the ground with earth heaped on top for added protection. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Used by the Royal Air Force (RAF).</li><li>Very fast and highly agile – great at turning quickly.</li><li>Top speed: about 360 mph (580 km/h).</li><li>Used in dogfights to chase enemy planes.</li><li>Helped Britain win the Battle of Britain.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Main German fighter plane during the Battle of Britain.</li><li>Very fast and powerful.</li><li>Top speed: about 350 mph (560 km/h).</li><li>Short fuel range – couldn't stay in British airspace long.</li><li>Carried machine guns and cannons.</li><li>Often used to protect German bombers.</li></ul> |

Key Knowledge - People

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|  <div>Winston Churchill</div> | Winston Churchill became Prime Minister in 1940, just as Britain faced the threat of invasion. He inspired the country with powerful speeches like “We shall fight on the beaches” and supported the RAF during the Battle of Britain. His leadership and determination helped Britain stand strong, and he worked with other Allied leaders to defeat Nazi Germany.      |
|  <div>Douglas Bader</div>    | Douglas Bader lost both his legs in a flying accident but refused to give up. He returned to the RAF and led pilots in the Battle of Britain, flying Spitfires and Hurricanes with great courage. Even after being shot down and captured, he tried to escape many times. After the war, he became a symbol of determination and campaigned for people with disabilities. |