

# Learning Organiser: Why was winning the Battle of Britain in 1940 so important?

## Key objective

Evaluate a range of sources to reach a judgment about why the allies won the Battle of Britain.

## Important people I will investigate



**Adolf Hitler:**

German politician and Fuhrer of the German Reich.



**Winston Churchill:**

British politician and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.



**Reichsmarschall**

**Hermann Goering:**  
Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe.



**Air Chief Marshall**

**Hugh Dowding:**  
Commander in Chief of RAF Fighter Command.

## Important concepts I will understand

<b>Causation</b>	The connections between events where one thing happens as a result of another.
<b>Significance</b>	Identifying events, sources, people, places or ideas which are most important.
<b>Perspective</b>	Seeing events from different viewpoints.
<b>Sources</b>	Evidence that is used to gather information and reach judgements.
<b>Chronology</b>	Arranging historical events in their correct time order.
<b>Empathy</b>	Placing yourself in another's position to better understand their actions.
<b>Conflict</b>	A struggle or clash between opposing forces, interests or ideas.
<b>Alliance</b>	A formal agreement between two or more countries.
<b>Democracy</b>	A form of government where people vote freely to choose their leaders.
<b>Empire</b>	A group of countries ruled by a single person, government or country.
<b>Military</b>	The armed forces of a country.
<b>Power</b>	Having control or command over people.
<b>War</b>	Armed conflict between different countries or people within a country (civil war).
<b>Country</b>	A nation with its own government occupying a distinct territory.

## Important subject vocabulary I will learn

<b>Fuhrer</b>	A dictatorial leader with absolute power.
<b>Prime Minister</b>	A leader of an elected government.
<b>Reich</b>	The territory controlled by Nazi Germany 1933-1945.
<b>Allies</b>	Countries agreeing to support each other in times of war.
<b>RADAR</b>	A system for detecting moving objects such as aircraft.
<b>Evacuation</b>	Moving people away from places of danger.
<b>Combat</b>	Fighting between armed forces.
<b>Blitzkrieg</b>	A sudden powerful attack to achieve a quick victory.

## Important Places



**Western Europe 1940**

Dark Green: countries under German control.

Light Green: countries allied with Germany.

Pink: neutral countries.



**The Channel Islands**

Crown dependencies of the United Kingdom



**Dunkirk**

A coastal town in north east France from which 340,000 allied soldiers were evacuated to Britain between May 26 – 29 1940.

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## Disciplinary thinking skills I will use to understand what I learn

<b>Select</b>	Choosing the information most suitable and relevant.
<b>Synthesising</b>	Bringing together a range of ideas and facts from different sources to develop an explanation.
<b>Explaining</b>	Showing understanding of how or why something happened the way it did.
<b>Empathising</b>	Placing yourself in another's position to better understand their actions.
<b>Concluding</b>	Summing up the main points about something.
<b>Reaching a judgement</b>	Expressing a personal view about something supported by evidence.
<b>Justifying</b>	Giving reasons supported by evidence to show what you consider right or reasonable.
<b>Evaluating</b>	Weighing up and judging the relative importance of something compared with other ideas and arguments.
<b>Critiquing</b>	Considering the validity or trustworthiness of evidence.

## Important things I will know, understand and do

Why Britain was at war with Nazi Germany 1939-45

Why Britain faced the threat of invasion in 1940

Why Nazi Germany needed to defeat the RAF before beginning an invasion

What occurred during the Battle of Britain

Why Britain won the Battle of Britain

The significance of this victory for Britain

## Important historical sources I will use

- Maps
- Photographs
- Pathe News reels
- Speeches of Winston Churchill
- Official orders of Adolf Hitler
- Newspaper reports
- Secret instructions issued by the British Ministry of Home Security
- Comparative data of German and British military strength

## Timeline of 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 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 postpones Operation Sea Lion indefinitely.

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

## Important influencing factors I will evaluate



Supermarine Spitfire



Messerschmitt bf 109



Junkers 88



Blitzkrieg



RADAR transmitter



RAF aircraft plotters



RADAR operator Command headquarters