

## WORLD WAR II - The Battle of Britain

1. What do the pictures show? Choose the best description from those below.

- a. A bombed London street
- b. Winston Churchill
- c. Heinkel He 111 during the Battle of Britain
- d. World War II poster containing the famous lines by Winston Churchill
- e. Soldier on the lookout for German planes



2. Listen to the audio and fill in the gaps.

The Battle of Britain was an important battle in World War II. After Germany and Hitler had \_\_\_\_\_ most of Europe, including France, the only major country left to fight them was Great Britain. Germany wanted to invade Great Britain, but first they needed to destroy Great Britain's Royal Air Force. The Battle of Britain was when Germany bombed Great Britain in order to try and destroy their air force and prepare for \_\_\_\_\_.



The Battle of Britain started on July 10th, \_\_\_\_\_. It lasted many months as the Germans continued to bomb Britain.

The name comes from a \_\_\_\_\_ by the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Winston Churchill. After Germany had overrun France, he said that "the Battle of France is over. The Battle of Britain is about to begin."

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Germany needed to prepare for the invasion of Britain, so they first attacked towns and \_\_\_\_\_ on the southern coast. However, they soon found that Britain's Royal Air Force was a formidable opponent. The Germans decided to focus their efforts on defeating the Royal Air Force. This meant they bombed airport, runways and British \_\_\_\_\_. Although the German bombings continued, the British did not



3. \_\_\_\_\_

stop fighting back. Hitler began to get frustrated at how long it was taking to defeat Great Britain. He soon switched tactics and started bombing \_\_\_\_\_ including London.

On September 15, 1940 Germany launched a large \_\_\_\_\_ attack on the city of London. They felt that they were closing in on victory. The British

Royal Air force took to the sky and scattered the German bombers. They shot down a number of German \_\_\_\_\_. It was clear from this battle that Britain was not defeated, and that Germany was not being successful. Although Germany would continue bombing London and other targets in Great Britain for a long time, the \_\_\_\_\_ began to slow as they realized they could not defeat the Royal Air Force.

Although the Germans had more planes and pilots, the British were able to fight them off and win the battle. This was because they had the \_\_\_\_\_ of fighting over their own territory, they were defending their homeland, and they had radar. Radar allowed the British to know when and where German planes were coming to attack. This gave them \_\_\_\_\_ to get their own planes in the air to help defend.

### Interesting Facts

- \* Great Britain's air force was called the \_\_\_\_\_ or the Royal Air Force. Germany's air force was called the Luftwaffe.
- \* The \_\_\_\_\_ for Hitler's invasion plans was Operation Sea Lion.
- \* It is estimated that around 1,000 British planes were shot down during the battle, while over 1,800 German planes were \_\_\_\_\_.
- \* The main types of fighter planes used in the battle were the Messerschmitt Bf109 and the Bf110 by the German Luftwaffe and Hurricane Mk and Spitfire Mk by the Royal Air Force.
- \* The leader of the German \_\_\_\_\_ was Herman Goering. The leader of the Royal Air Force was Sir Hugh Dowding.
- \* Germany continued to bomb London at night until May of 1941. This series of bombings was called *the Blitz*. At one point London was bombed for \_\_\_\_\_ nights in a row.
- \* Hitler finally stopped bombing London because he needed his bombers to invade \_\_\_\_\_.



4. \_\_\_\_\_

"Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be free, and life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands. But if we fall, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age... Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, 'This was their finest hour.'"



5. \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Answer the following questions:**

**1. What country attacked Britain in the Battle of Britain?**

- a. France      b. Soviet Union      c. Italy      d. Germany      e. Spain

**2. What was the main goal Hitler wanted to accomplish by bombing the British air force in the Battle of Britain?**

- a. To keep them from attacking his troops in France  
b. To destroy the air force in preparation to invade Britain  
c. To prove his air force was stronger  
d. To keep the British on the defense  
e. To stop them from bombing Germany

**3. What year did the Battle of Britain take place?**

- a. 1938      b. 1939      c. 1940      d. 1941      e. 1942

**4. What new technology helped the British air force in defending against the Germans?**

- a. Radar      b. Internet      c. Radio      d. Computers      e. Telephone

**5. What was the air force of Great Britain called?**

- a. The Royal Sky Force      b. The English Air Fighters      c. The London Air Force  
d. The Flying Brits      e. The Royal Air Force

**6. Why did Hitler finally stop bombing Great Britain?**

- a. Because he ran out of fighter planes  
b. Because he needed his air force to help with the invasion of Russia

- c. Because he no longer wanted to take over Britain
- d. Because he did not want to hurt innocent people in the cities
- e. Because the Germans signed a peace treaty with Britain

**7. The Battle of Britain lasted a couple of days and then was over.**

- a. TRUE
- b. FALSE

**8. What was the air force of Germany called?**

- a. The German Air Force
- b. The Nazi Air Force
- c. The Great Air Force
- d. The Third Reich
- e. The Luftwaffe

**9. What advantage helped the British to win the battle?**

- a. The British were fighting for their homeland
- b. The British were defending and fighting over their own territory
- c. The British had radar
- d. All of the above
- e. None of the above

**10. What city was bombed for 57 nights in a row during the Battle of Britain?**

- a. Manchester
- b. Birmingham
- c. Paris
- d. London
- e. Newcastle