

<b>Year 6</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>WW2 - Battle of Britain</b>	<b>Knowledge Organiser</b>
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**Historical summary**

During World War II, the Battle of Britain was the successful defence of Great Britain against unremitting and destructive air raids conducted by the German air force (Luftwaffe) from July through September 1940, after the fall of France. The Dowding System (named for Fighter Command's Commander-in-Chief Sir Hugh Dowding) brought together technology such as radar, ground defences and fighter aircraft into a unified system of defence. Britain's victory in the Battle of Britain demonstrated the courage and resilience of the country's military and its people and allowed them to remain free from Nazi occupation. It also enabled the Americans to establish a base of operations in England to invade Normandy on D-Day in 1944.

<b>Key facts</b>	<b>Key people</b>
Began 10 <sup>th</sup> July 1940	Winston Churchill—Prime Minister of Great Britain.
May 1940, Nazi Germany had occupied almost all of Western Europe	Air Chief High Dowding—Commander in Chief RAF Fighter Command.
Spitfire and Hurricane were Britain most renowned aeroplane	Adolf Hitler—Self Appointed President of Nazi Germany.
Battle of Britain, lasted 12 weeks	Reichmarschall Hermann Goering— Supreme Commander of the German Luftwaffe.
Battle of Britain day is celebrated on 15 <sup>th</sup> September	
German air forces continued to bomb large cities after the 12 weeks	
Battle of Britain is thought to have actually ended on 31 <sup>st</sup> October 1940	

**Important questions**

How serious was the risk of invasion by Nazi Germany in June 1940?

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What did Hitler need to do if an invasion was going to succeed?

Why did Britain win the Battle of Britain?

<b>Vocabulary</b>	
Invasion	an unwelcome intrusion into a country or region
Nazi Germany	when Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party controlled Germany
Occupation	being controlled by a military force
Territories	an area of land under the jurisdiction of a ruler
Prime Minister	the head of an elected government
Evacuation	the action of removing a person from a place
Dunkirk	located in the north of France near the Belgian-French border
Chanel Islands	5 island that are British Crown Dependencies
Government	the group of people with the authority to govern a country
Withdrawn	Retreating forces
Retreat	withdraw from enemy forces as a result of their superior power or after a defeat
Spitfire	a small British military aircraft, designed to attack other aircraft
Hurricane	British single-seater monoplane fighter aircraft
Successful	accomplishing a desired aim or result
Defence	the action of defending from or resisting attack
Air raids	an attack in which bombs are dropped from aircraft
Luftwaffe	German armed air forces
Victory	an act of defeating an enemy and winning
Military	the armed forces of a country.

**What I should know by the end of this unit.**

Explain why Britain faced the risk of an invasion in June 1940 and reach a judgment about how serious that threat was

Interpret numerical and written evidence to explain and justify why Hitler needed to defeat the British Royal Air Force before launching an invasion of Britain in 1940. Identify, describe, explain and evaluate the relative importance of the factors that contributed to Britain winning the Battle of Britain in 1940 and make a judgment as to which of these they feel were most significant