



Battle of Britain Key Facts

1. Fill in the gaps to complete the sentences.

The Battle of Britain began in _____ and lasted until _____. During this time, German forces tried to gain control of British airspace.

2. Match the terms to their meanings.

Operation Sea Lion

A military unit which controlled and directed fighter aircraft.

RAF

A defensive attack by troops.

Luftwaffe

A group of aircraft and crew.

Fighter Command

Royal Air Force - Britain's military air defence force.

Squadron

A way to detect objects (aircraft) using radio waves.

Radar

Germany's official WWII military air force (also the German word for 'air force').

Sortie

The code name for Adolf Hitler's plan to invade Britain during World War II.

3. Why is the Battle of Britain considered a major turning point in World War II and world history?

4. After the Battle of Britain, what happened next in the war?



Battle of Britain Key Facts

1. When and why did the Battle of Britain begin?

2. Research and explain the meaning of the following terms relating to the Battle of Britain:

Operation Sea Lion

RAF

Luftwaffe

Fighter Command

Squadron

Radar

Sortie

3. Why is the Battle of Britain considered a major turning point in World War II and world history?

4. After the Battle of Britain, what happened next in the war?

Battle of Britain Key Facts Answers

1. The Battle of Britain lasted from July 1940 until September 1940 (although by then, bombing had shifted to major towns and cities – The Blitz).
2. The Battle of Britain began as an attempt by German leaders to gain control of Britain's airspace in preparation for a full-scale invasion.

Definition of terms – for HA these should be described in the context of their explanation.

Operation Sea Lion: The code name for Adolf Hitler's plan to invade Britain during World War II.

RAF: Royal Air Force – Britain's military air defence force.

Luftwaffe: Germany's official WWII military air force (also the German word for 'air force').

Fighter Command: A military unit which controlled and directed fighter aircraft.

squadron: A group of aircraft and crew.

sortie: A defensive attack by troops.

radar: A way to detect objects (aircraft) using radio waves.

3. The Battle of Britain is considered a major turning point in World War II and world history because if Britain had not been victorious the outcome of the war could have been different. Hitler may have been able to invade and occupy Britain and be in a better position to continue his plans for world supremacy.
4. Believing they had caused enough damage to RAF stations, Luftwaffe changed tactics and began to concentrate on the bombing of cities instead. The first heavy bombing raids took place on the 7th September 1940 in London and continued until May 1941. This period of the war is known as the Blitz, which comes from the German word 'Blitzkrieg' meaning 'Lightning War'.