



Battle of Britain resources created by author Andrew Powell-Thomas

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The Battle of Britain is an often talked about moment in the Second World War, but few realise just how long it lasted. In the aftermath of Dunkirk, the Royal Air Force, with pilots from right across the world, successfully defended the skies above the UK from the German Luftwaffe.

I hope that you find these resources useful and can use them to help commemorate this occasion. There are a whole range of activities and ideas, some suited towards younger children, and others more suitable for older children. Use them as you see fit, they are free for anyone to use, so do please share them!

Andrew

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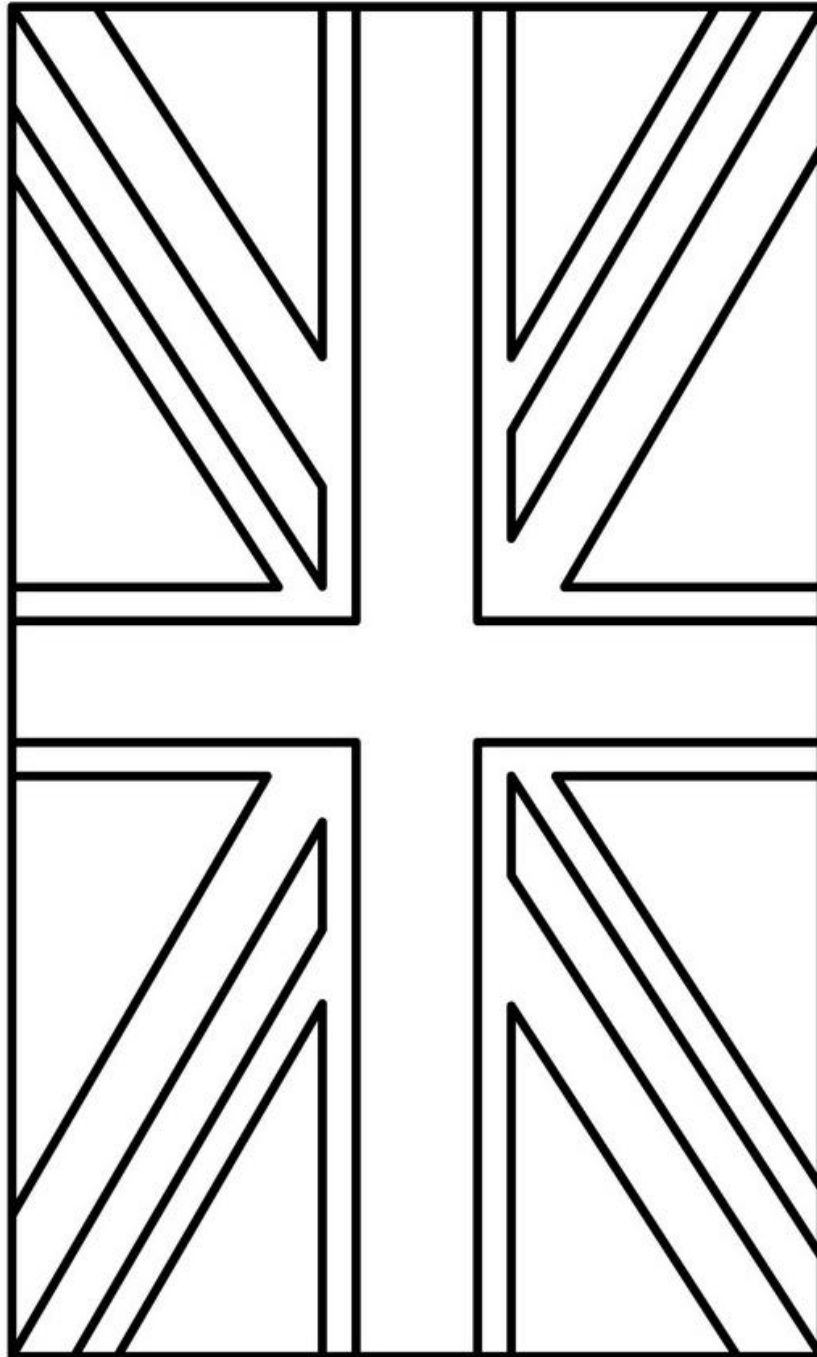
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Create your own bunting by printing out copies of this Union flag, colouring them in, and joining them together with string!



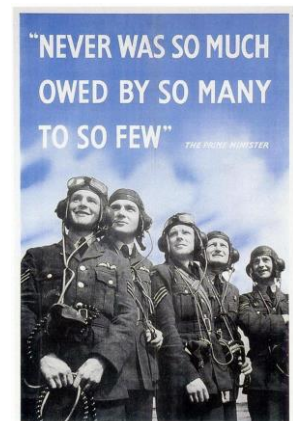


Understanding the Battle of Britain – reading comprehension



With Nazi Germany rapidly taking the Netherlands, Belgium and France in 1940, and with the British evacuation at Dunkirk, there was a very real prospect that Hitler would try to invade Britain.

The Battle of Britain officially started on the 10th July 1940, with the German Airforce (the Luftwaffe) targeted shipping and ports, airfields and industry crucial to the war effort, and later, terror attacks on British civilians.



Aerial battles, known as dogfights, were fought over England in full view of the people below. Although the Germans had more aircraft, the skill and bravery of the Royal Air Force (RAF) pilots, along with the performance of two fighter planes (the Hurricane and the Spitfire) ensured that Germany did not gain air superiority over Britain, and they turned their evil intentions east towards the Soviet Union. It was another 5 years before the war was over.



The Battle of Britain officially ended on the 31st October 1940. The Hurricane and Spitfire have gone down in British Folklore and Prime Minister Winston Churchill summed up the battle with the words: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."



Understanding the Battle of Britain – with reading comprehension

1: When did the Battle of Britain officially take place?

2: What does RAF stand for?

3: What was the German Luftwaffe doing?

4: What were aerial fights known as?

5: The performance of two planes helped the RAF win. What were their names?

6: Explain what happened at the end of the Battle of Britain?

7: What do you think Churchill meant when he said: “Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.”?



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Look at this photograph of some pilots preparing their aircraft.



Observe – What can I see?

Wonder – What would I like to find out?

Infer – What could happen?



The Royal Air Force pilots, who came from many different countries, were constantly on stand-by, ready to leap into their aircraft at a moment's notice and take to the skies to defend Britain.

How would you have felt if you were one of these men?



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Design your own aircraft.

Can you design your own aircraft? What will it look like?



Photograph credits:

1: Hurricane – Public Domain.

2: Never was so much poster – Public domain.

3: Smoke rising from fires in the London docks - New York Times Paris Bureau Collection – Public Domain.

4: Pilots from 303 Squadron – Public Domain

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Britain#/media/File:Pilots of No. 303 \(Polish\) Squadron RAF with one of their Hawker Hurricanes, October 1940. CH1535.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Britain#/media/File:Pilots_of_No._303_(Polish)_Squadron_RAF_with_one_of_their_Hawker_Hurricanes,_October_1940.CH1535.jpg)

5: Public Domain

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Britain#/media/File:RAF Bristol Blenheim WWII Color.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Britain#/media/File:RAF_Bristol_Blenheim_WWII_Color.jpg)

6: Pilots – public Domain

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Britain#/media/File:Pilots of No. 310 \(Czechoslovak\) Squadron RAF in front of Hawker Hurricane Mk I at Duxford, Cambridgeshire, 7 September 1940. CH1299.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Britain#/media/File:Pilots_of_No._310_(Czechoslovak)_Squadron_RAF_in_front_of_Hawker_Hurricane_Mk_I_at_Duxford,_Cambridgeshire,_7_September_1940.CH1299.jpg)