History – Battle of Britain – Year 5 - Autumn 1

Vocabulary Top Ten:

barrage balloon	a large balloon anchored to the ground which acts as an obstacle enemy aircraft.
Blitzkrieg	a German word for lightning war
evacuate	to move or take away from a dangerous place
invasion	taking over a country by force
Luftwaffe	the German air force during World War II
raid	a sudden, surprise attack
ration	to restrict or limit something
siren	a warning device that makes a loud, piercing noise
surrender	to give up power or control of something
VE day	shortened version of 'Victory in Europe Day' when Germany was defeated

Aircraft used during World War II

Messerschmitt Bf109



Messerschmitt Bf110



Hurricane Mk



Spitfire Mk



People sheltering in a London underground station



Key Facts:

In July 1940 Hitler gave orders for the seaborne invasion of Britain code name 'Operation Sealion'.

Once Germany and Hitler had conquered most of Europe, Great Britain was the only major country left to fight them.

The Battle of Britain was when Germany bombed Great Britain in order to try and destroy their air force and prepare for invasion.

The Battle of Britain started on July 10th, 1940.

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

Germany first attacked towns and army defences on the southern coast.

Hitler began to get frustrated at the time it was taking to defeat Great Britain so he decided to bomb larger cities including London.

London was bombed every day and night, bar one, for 11 weeks. As a result, one third of London was destroyed.

Food and clothing were rationed and hard to get a hold of because shops were being bombed.

The Blitz ended in mid-MAY 1941 as Hitler finally stopped bombing London.

Timeline:

1st September 1939
War II begins

10th July 1940
Start of The Battle of Britain

7th September 1940
Massive air raid on London

May 1941
Blitz ended

8th May 1945
VE Day
Germany surrenders