Write to inform: Non-chronological report

The Battle of Britain

Purpose: To provide the reader with information about a particular topic.

What was the Battle of Britain?

The Battle of Britain was the attempt by the Germans to destroy Great Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) so that they could then invade by sea. This was an important battle in the Second World War because, after Hitler and the German army had invaded most of Europe (including France), one of the few countries left to fight them was Great Britain.

When did the battle happen?

The Battle of Britain started on 10th July 1940 when British ships in the English Channel were bombed by the German Luftwaffe. It lasted many months as the Germans continued to bomb Britain.
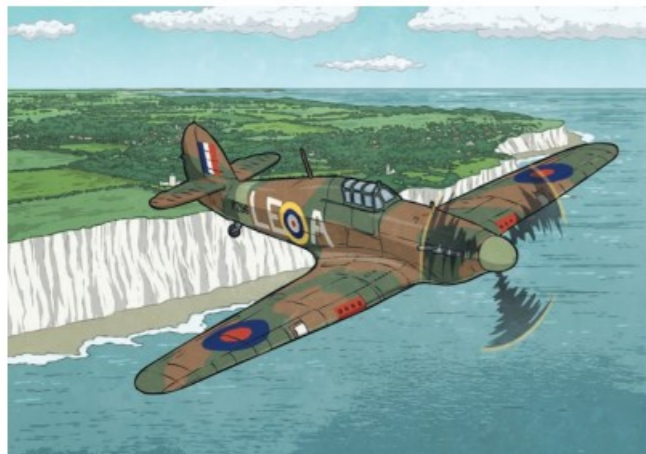
What was the Luftwaffe?

The Luftwaffe was the name of the German air force. When the Battle of Britain began, the Luftwaffe was at a distinct advantage over the RAF. They had 2,600 aircraft against Britain's 640.

Which was the most famous plane?

The British Spitfire plane became a popular symbol of the Battle of Britain. The Spitfires battled with the German fighter planes while another British plane, the Hawker Hurricane, took down the German bombers. Although the Spitfire became the star of the RAF fleet, it was actually the Hawker Hurricane that took down more German aircraft.

Why is it called the Battle of Britain?

The name comes from a speech given by the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Winston Churchill. After Germany had invaded France, Winston Churchill said, 'The Battle of France is over. The Battle of Britain is about to begin.'

How many planes were destroyed?

It is estimated that 1,000 British planes were shot down during the Battle of Britain whereas 1,800 German planes were destroyed.

When did the Battle of Britain end?

On 15th September 1940, the Germans launched one of their biggest attacks but the British fighters hit back hard and gained the advantage. Hitler became frustrated as it became clear he could not defeat the RAF. Although the Germans continued to bomb large cities for months afterwards (which became known as the Blitz), 15th September 1940 is officially regarded as the end of the Battle of Britain and this day is commemorated each year.

Key features

Structural:

- Include a title to tell the reader what it is about
- Use an introduction to draw the reader in
- Include subheadings to organise the information

Language:

- Technical vocabulary: *invade*
- Third person: *They*
- Passive voice to maintain formality: British ships *were bombed by* the German Luftwaffe

Writer's toolbox

Passive voice:

Emphasises the person receiving the action with an Object, Verb, Subject structure. Example:

British ships were bombed by the German Luftwaffe

Semi-colons:

Use semi-colons to mark independent clauses. Example:

Hitler had a secret code name for his invasion plan; it was called 'Operation Sea Lion'.

Colons:

Use colons to introduce a list or a quote. Example:

This name came from a Winston Churchill speech to parliament on 20th August 1940: 'Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.'

Vocabulary:

Invaded	Distinct advantage
Estimated	Launched
Popular symbol	Commemorated
Officially regarded	

Recommended reads