

Week Beginning 29.06.2020

Topic – History

Hi Longboats,

Well done for working so hard on this History. I hope you're enjoying learning all about WWII, at home.

One reason why it is important for us to learn about World War II is because most wars are just between one or two countries but this war affected people across the whole globe. I think we've mentioned about 8 countries in this topic so far, if you've done the work each week. Can you think of which ones they are? Can you think of what you know about each one? (I'll put the answers on the next page so you can check! Don't worry if you can't think of all eight – this is a difficult topic!)

Activity 1

So, war has begun. Germany is bombing Britain and Britain has introduced the blackout to try and hide our cities. It has also introduced rationing to try and make sure we don't run out of food.

Our main ally in this war so far is France. France has an army of just 900,000 men (Germany now has 3.7 million) **but** France has another 5 million men who have been trained to fight and can be "called up" (that means instructed to leave their normal jobs and join the army) if war comes. This was called conscription. *Surely*, with almost 6 million French soldiers, and around 2 million British soldiers, we can stop Hitler!



to show which countries have been invaded by the Nazis and you could use labels to explain why different countries are important.

Look at the countries that border Germany and France. Where do you think Hitler will try to invade next?

Look at some of the countries we haven't heard about yet. What questions does the map make you want to ask?

Activity 2

The war had been going on for about 4 months and it was January 1940 when Germany attacked France in a risky move, using a lot of tanks. France thought that they could fight back but the German army were lucky, organised and kept on taking them by surprise.

Britain sent thousands of soldiers to help, lots of them young men who had never left England before.

How many plane companies can you think of? Can you make a list?

In 1940, planes were invented, but they were tiny (most could carry less than ten passengers) and extremely expensive. Most people who lived in the UK had never left Britain.

Suddenly, hundreds of thousands of men were travelling to France, some of them were only 18 or 19, still teenagers! Here are some real photos.



Imagine you are a soldier who has travelled to France for the first time. For the first few months, you are training in France and then, in January 1940, Germany invaded. Suddenly, you are in a foreign country, where you might not speak much of the language and you're fighting for your life!

Can you write a letter home from a soldier who has never left England before?

You can decide how old your soldier is, whether he can speak French and whether he is just training or if he has started fighting. How would you be feeling? What would you want your family to know? What might you be experiencing that you've never seen or tried before – maybe new food?

(Sorry, he has to be a man. The army was still sexist in 1940 and no women would have been allowed.)

Activity 3

Terrifyingly, the British and French soldiers were pushed back further and further. After just 6 weeks, the Nazis had taken over France. Neville Chamberlain had left and a new prime minister called Winston Churchill was in charge.

The British army had retreated as far as they could from the Germans, to a beach in a place called Dunkirk.

Geography Challenge – map reading!

Of course, you can find Dunkirk on Google maps, but can you find it without just using the search tool? Start in London (your Google maps will probably open to your own location so it should be on London anyway).

From London, you need to travel **east**, zoom out as well.

Quite soon, you should see the coast of France. Can you spot Dunkirk?

Dunkirk was less than 100 miles from Britain! On a clear day, you could almost see Britain from the beach, but choppy, crashing, freezing water was in between.

The German army was still advancing. How could the British soldiers escape from this deadly beach?

400,000 men were trapped on the flat sand with nowhere to hide.

Then, something remarkable happened.

This story is still told in Britain today. All along the British coasts, normal people, men and women, had heard about the army trapped on the beach. Lots of these people who lived on the coast had their own boat, just a tiny one, that could carry maybe 20 or 50 people.

Maths Challenge!

There are 400,000 men trapped on the beach. If each boat could carry 20 people, how many boats would have to travel into the war zone to rescue the whole army?

Can you guess what they did?

Watch this video to find out if you were right

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIERmNsvlkg>

This is from a film called "Dunkirk" that was made quite recently. It's a 12a so it would be legal for you to watch it but, although the story has an amazing and happy ending, lots of sad events happen too. If you're interested in the film, you need to ask a parent to check first if it is okay for you to see it.

Can you create a piece of artwork, poem or a story to tell other people about what happened at Dunkirk?

Countries question answers

1. Germany – Adolf Hitler and his Nazi party were ruling Germany. They were being racist towards Jewish people and others too, including Roma people. They killed many people who disagreed with them and invaded other countries, trying to extend their rule across the whole of Europe. They had an army of 2.5 million soldiers and a navy and airforce too.
2. United Kingdom – One of the countries to stand up to Hitler and start a war against him. The UK had a smaller army than Hitler and, because we are an island, people were also worried we might run out of food.
3. Czechoslovakia – Hitler invaded part of Czechoslovakia called The Sudetenland before the war started.
4. Lithuania – After signing a contract to promise he wouldn't invade any more countries, Hitler and the Nazis broke their promise after just 1 week by invading Lithuania.
5. Poland – The UK and France were allies with Poland and promised to stand up for Poland no matter what happened. Hitler's invasion of the Poland was the final straw that started the war.
6. France – France was allies with Britain and Poland and agreed to fight against Hitler.
7. Italy – Italy was at the Munich meeting where Hitler signed the contract but didn't join in on either side at the beginning of the war.
8. Austria – Austria was the first country that Hitler invaded but he then held a vote to ask Austrians if they wanted to join Germany.