

## **Topic – Week beginning 13.07.2020**

### **History**

Hi Longboats, how are you all?

This is our last week of Topic lessons before the Summer holidays!

We are going to keep thinking about World War II. Last week, you learnt about Josephine Baker, an amazing singer who worked undercover as a spy for the French resistance. We learnt that after the Nazis took over France, many people secretly began fighting back.

### **Activity 1**

Do you remember us talking about how this was a World War, not just a war in Europe? By 1940, Japan had joined the war on the Nazi's side. They were fighting against the UK, the French Resistance and the other Allies (countries united against Germany).

At that time, both the UK and France were ruling a lot of other countries. This was called "empire" and it meant that there were many more people who could help fight back against Hitler. However, empires were often unfair. Vietnam was part of the French Empire but they wanted to make their own laws and have their own government and independence. This is part of the story of how the War helped that to happen.



Before the war, there was a man called Ho Chi Minh. He was Vietnamese and he had grown up learning Vietnamese and French. When he was quite young, his dad was fired from his job. Ho Chi Minh left Vietnam and went to work as a cook on a ship. This let him travel the world for free! All over the world, Ho Chi Minh saw fascinating people and heard stories of people fighting for their rights. In New York, he found out about the fight for black people's rights and he lived in London for a while, again working as a chef. The more he learnt, the more important he thought it was that Vietnamese people should rule their own country. It shouldn't belong to France.

When the war started, Ho Chi Minh decided that he needed to go home to Vietnam to fight for his people and their right to independence. The Japanese army were in charge in Vietnam and the French government that had been there before weren't standing up to them. In secret, Ho Chi Minh helped to set up a secret army, deep in the jungles of Vietnam.

Remember we talked about the blackout in the UK? The resistance in Vietnam had a similar idea. They needed to make themselves safe from Japanese bombing so they hid in the heart of the jungle where no one flying overhead could possibly see them. In their secret headquarters, the Vietnamese resistance made plans to attack Japanese bases. Then, they would sneak out and fight back against the Japanese army.

The Japanese army had more men but they just couldn't catch the resistance fighters. In 1945, Japan finally surrendered and Ho Chi Minh declared that Vietnam would never be ruled by another country again.

Choose one of these activities:

<p>Design a secret base that could be hidden in the middle of the jungle – how would you camouflage it? How would you make sure it couldn't be seen by bombers? How would you make sure that your own soldiers could find their way there?</p>	<p>When Ho Chi Minh and the other resistance fighters finally won, they wrote a speech which declared that Vietnam was free and independent.</p> <p><i>Imagine you are part of the Vietnamese resistance, Ho Chi Minh has asked you to help write a speech explaining and celebrating Vietnamese independence. What would you write?</i></p> <p>Remember, your speech should be <i>persuasive</i> – what language and ideas we learnt about in Literacy could help you write a persuasive speech convincing people how important independence is?</p>
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## Activity 2

Meanwhile, in France the resistance were continuing to fight back in secret against the German occupation. Dr Johan Weidner lived near the border between France and Switzerland and loved to go hiking so he knew the mountains between the two countries very well. When the Nazis took over France, Johan knew that lots of Jewish people's lives were in danger. He decided to join the resistance and help.

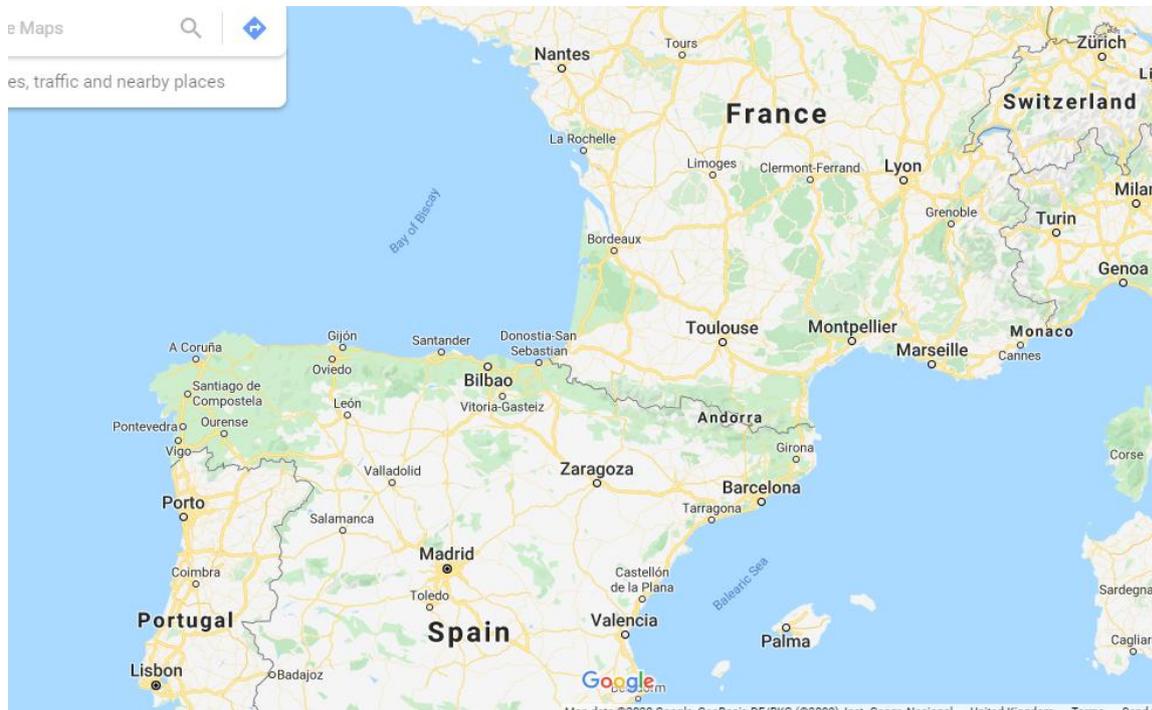
Johan knew he could use his knowledge of the mountains to help people escape from France and the Netherlands into safer countries – Switzerland and Spain. He began to set up an **underground railroad**. This meant that he had trusted resistance fighters all over the country who would hide a Jewish person or family for a little while and then send them on to the next house. Nobody knew where all the safe houses were but people knew where the next one was so they could send Jewish people somewhere safe to stay, always a little closer to the border with Switzerland or Spain. Bit by bit, the resistance helped Jewish people to make their way across France and out to safety.



*Imagine you are Johan Weidner. This is a map of France. Where do you think you would need safe houses for Jewish people to travel across the country? There can't be too many – this is very dangerous and you need to keep the secret as small and safe as possible.*

1. Choose 10 places where you think you would try to organise a safe house. You can either draw them onto this map or create your own secret resistance map.
2. Explain how you decided where the safe houses on the **underground railroad** should go

3. You find out about a Jewish family in La Rochelle who need help getting out of the country. What stops on your **underground railway** could they use? How quickly do you think you can get them out of the country?



By 1943, Johan Weidner had helped save the lives of over 1000 people escaping the Nazis, many of them were Jewish. There were still two years left before the allies would win the war but Johan was arrested by the Nazis. They put him on a train headed for a prison in Germany where he would have to work for no pay.

Knowing he had nothing to lose, Johan jumped off the moving train. Luckily, he survived! He picked himself up and decided it was time for him to hike to Switzerland himself. He arrived in Switzerland safely and survived to the end of the war.