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The Battle of Britain began on 10th July 1940, when British ships in the English Channel were bombed by the German Luftwaffe. The Luftwaffe had a distinct advantage over the RAF with 2600 aircraft against Britain's 640.

The Battle of Britain Key Facts

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Read the following information. Use the information to help you write out fact cards about the events of the Battle of Britain which include key dates. When you have written your fact cards, cut them out and stick them on your timeline in chronological order.

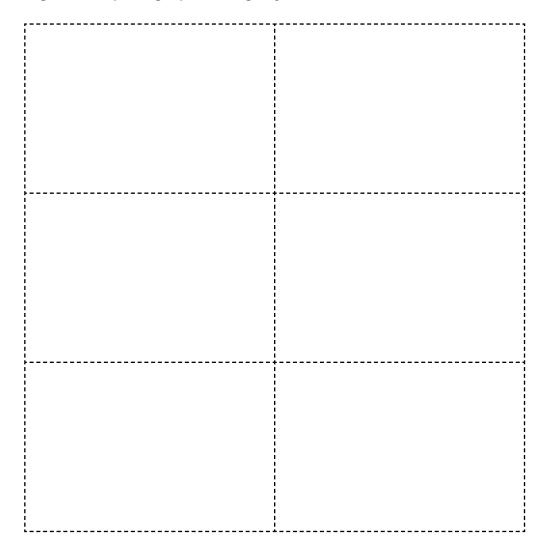
You can decorate the timeline with your own drawings or real photographs that you find on the Internet.

The Battle of Britain began on 10th July, 1940 when British ships in the English Channel were bombed by the German Luftwaffe. On 13th August, 1940 the Luftwaffe moved on to bombing airfields, harbours, radar stations and aircraft factories in an attempt to break down Britain's links to the outside world.

Despite their inferior numbers (at the start of the battle the RAF had only 640 aircraft compared the Luftwaffe's 2600), the RAF fought back hard and the Germans were not able to completely overpower them. On 20th August, 1940 the British prime minister, Winston Churchill, said: 'Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.'

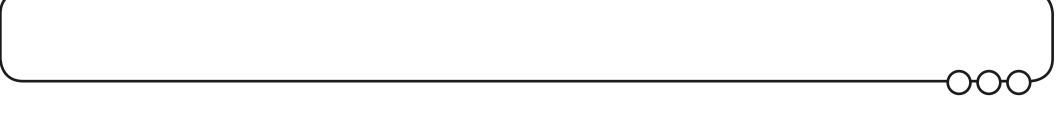
In late August through to early September, the Luftwaffe increased the frequency and power of their attacks on RAF airfields. On 31st August, 1940, the RAF suffered the worst damage and loss of life in the whole battle. Believing they were beginning to win, the Germans moved on to bombing London on 7th September, 1940 instead. However, this actually gave the RAF time to recover their defences and get the airfields up and running again.

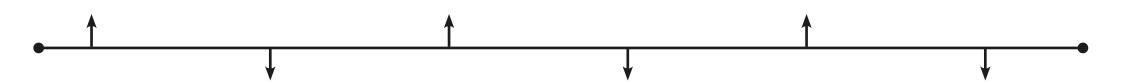
On 15th September, 1940, the Germans launched another massive attack but the British fighters hit back hard and it became clear that the Germans could not win. This date is officially regarded as the end of the Battle of Britain and this day is commemorated each year.











Why was the Battle of Britain a key turning point in World War II? _______

