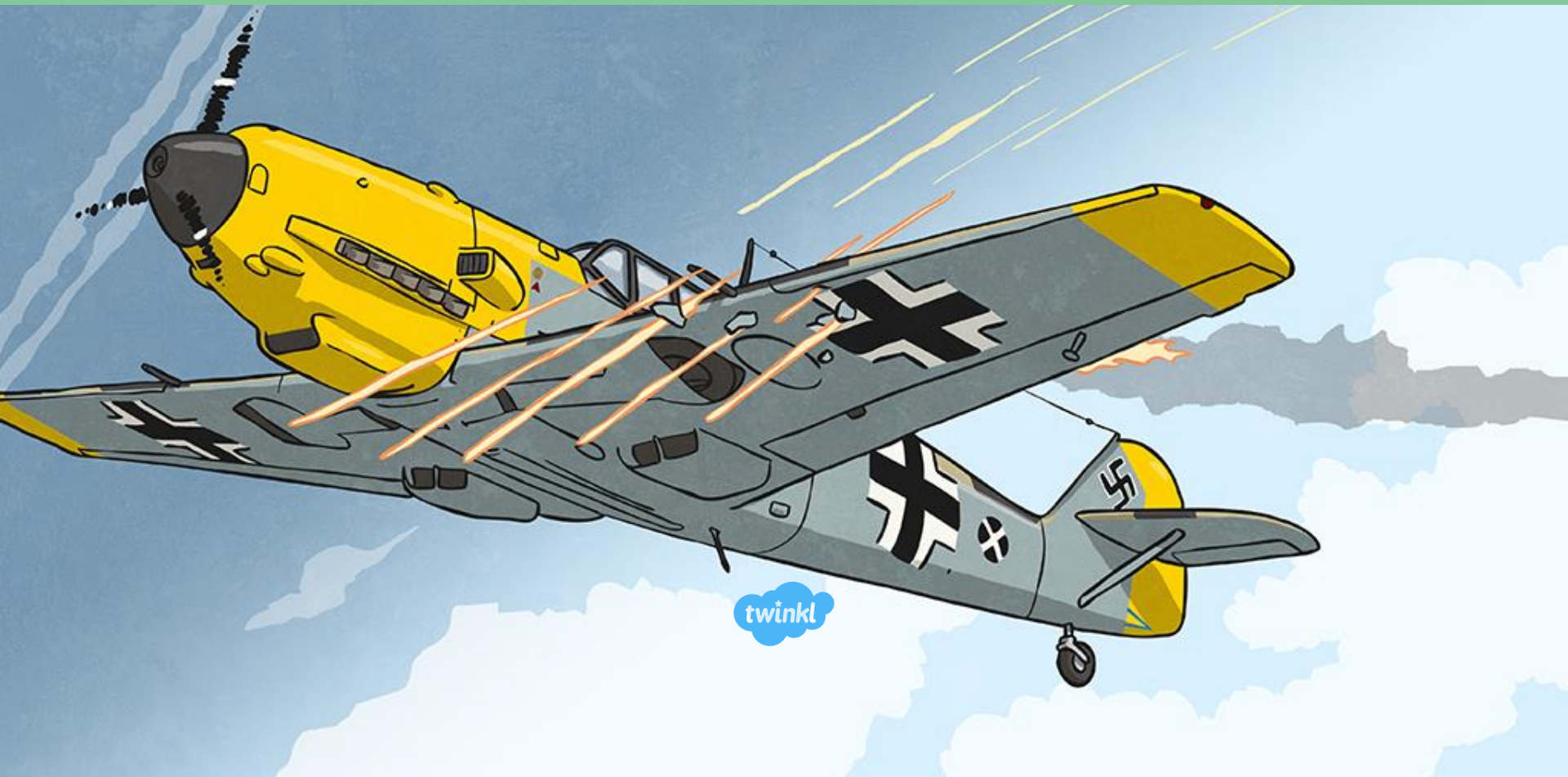


The Battle of Britain

Year 6 Home Learning



The Battle of Britain



The Battle of Britain was fought between the RAF (Royal Air Force) and the German Luftwaffe (air force).



Talk to a family member:

Do you know what the Battle of Britain was?

What do you think happened during the Battle of Britain?

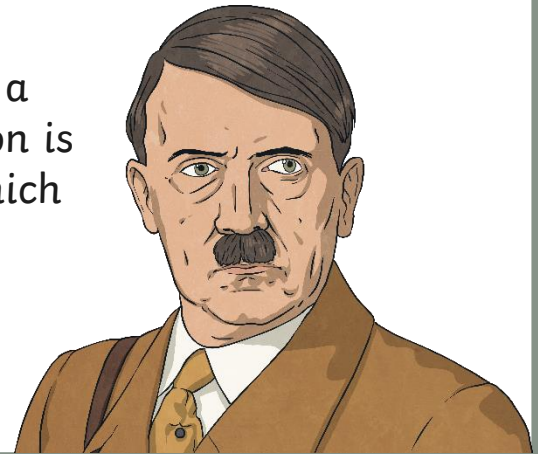


The Battle of Britain

In July 1940, the leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler, planned a secret mission which was code-named Operation Sea Lion. His plan was to invade Britain and stop the Allies from being able to fight back from Britain against his plans to secure German supremacy (ultimate power and control) across the world.

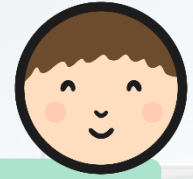
'As England, in spite of her hopeless military situation, still shows no signs of willingness to come to terms, I have decided to prepare, and if necessary to carry out, a landing operation against her. The aim of this operation is to eliminate the English Motherland as a base from which the war against Germany can be continued, and, if necessary, to occupy the country completely.'

- Adolf Hitler, 16th July 1940



The first thing Hitler needed to do was get control of British air space and the Battle of Britain came as a result of this. The German Luftwaffe (air force) were sent to destroy the British Royal Air Force (RAF).

Key Facts



You are going to make your own timeline of events from the Battle of Britain.

Read the **Battle of Britain Key Facts**. Use the facts to create your timeline putting them into chronological order.

The Battle of Britain Key Facts

Read the key facts about the Battle of Britain. Cut them out and put them into chronological order. You can decorate the timeline with your own drawings or real photographs.

The Battle of Britain Key Facts

Mass bombing of airfields, harbours, radar stations and aircraft factories began on 24th August, 1940.

On 2nd September 1940, the Germans moved onto bombing factories as they believed enough damage had been caused to the RAF's aircraft. However, this actually gave the RAF time to recover their aircraft.

The RAF sustained its most damaged and losses on 24th August 1940, and the Germans believed that they were beginning to win the battle.

On 15th September 1940, German bombers launched an intense attack, but the fighters reacted quickly because clear skies in the UK meant they could see them. This is officially regarded as the start of the Battle of Britain and is commemorated each year.

On 20th August 1940, the Prime Minister Winston Churchill said: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much at stake as in this hour." Because there were a lot of RAF pilots there (about 2,000) the RAF fought back hard and the Germans were not able to completely outnumber them. On 25th August, 1940 the British prime minister, Winston Churchill, said: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much at stake as in this hour."

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 its 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 airplanes and get the air force up and running again.

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

The Battle of Britain Key Facts

Mass bombing of harbours, radar stations and aircraft factories began on August, 1940.

On 2nd September 1940, the Germans moved onto bombing factories as they believed enough damage had been caused to the RAF's aircraft. However, this actually gave the RAF time to recover their aircraft.

The RAF sustained its most damaged and losses on August 1940, and the Germans believed that they were beginning to win the battle.

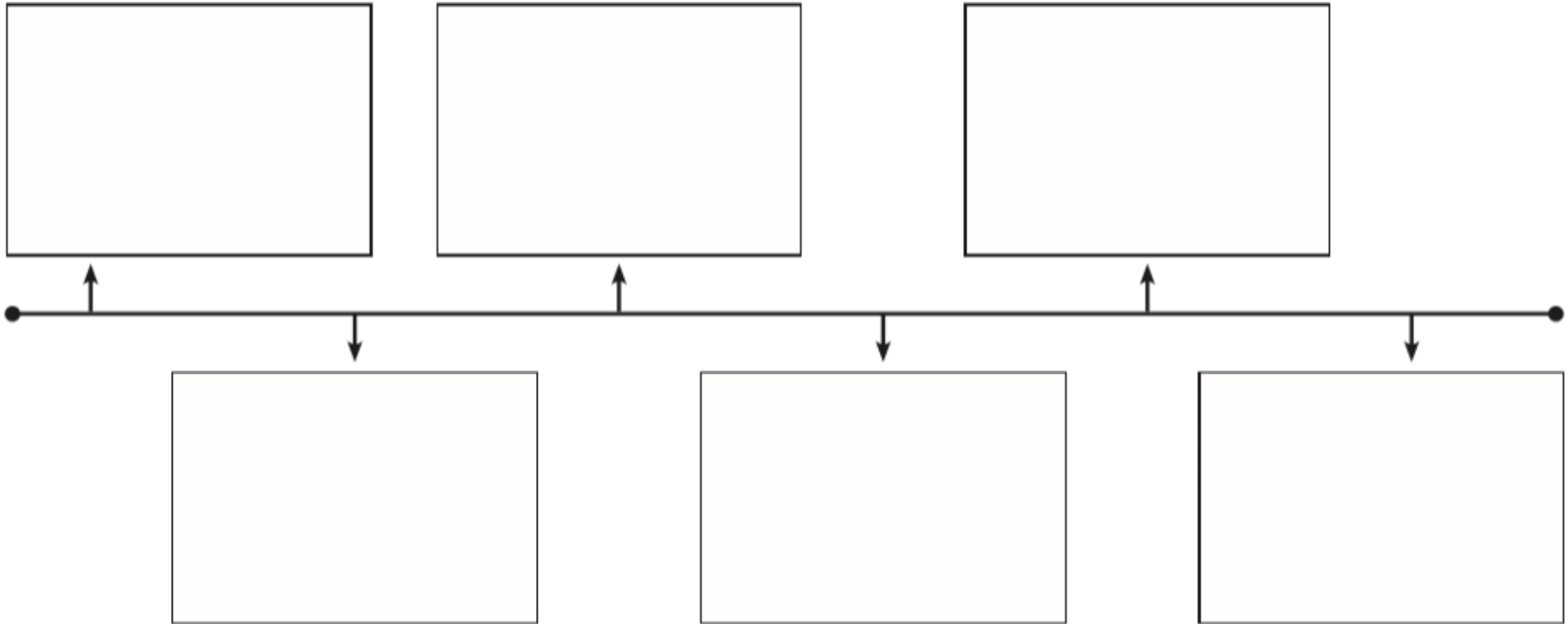
Why was the Battle of Britain a key turning point in World War II?

When you have finished your timeline, use your knowledge to answer this question: **Why was the Battle of Britain a key turning point in the war?**

If you don't have a printer, you can just draw your own timeline with a ruler!

The Battle of Britain Key Facts

Read the key facts about the Battle of Britain. Cut them out and put them into chronological order on your timeline.
You can decorate the timeline with your own drawings or real photographs that you find on the Internet.



If you don't have a printer, you can write out a shortened version of the key facts.



The Battle of Britain Key Facts

Mass bombing of airfields, harbours, radar stations and aircraft factories began on 13th August, 1940.

On 15th September 1940, the Germans launched another massive attack, but the British fighters reacted quickly 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.

On 7th September 1940, the Germans moved onto bombing London as they believed enough damage had been caused to the RAF stations. However, this actually gave the RAF time to recover their defences.

On 20th August 1940, the Prime Minister Winston Churchill said: 'Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.' This was because there were a lot fewer RAF pilots than Luftwaffe pilots.

The RAF sustained the most damaged and losses on 31st August 1940, and the Germans believed that they were beginning to win the battle.

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.

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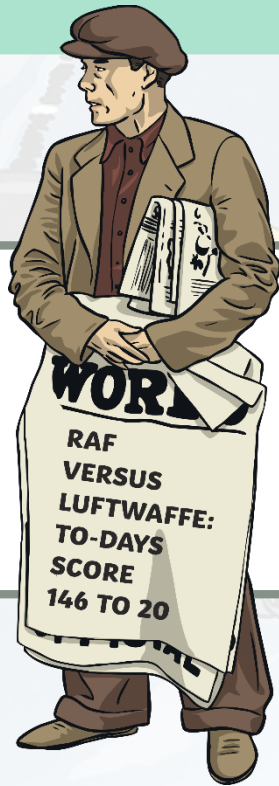
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Aerial Warfare

Despite the seriousness of the situation, people in Britain could not help but be dazzled by the spectacle of British and German planes engaged in battle and carrying out daring mid-air feats in desperate bids to outsmart, and ultimately, defeat each other.



News sellers published the losses from the battles each day, almost as if they were 'scores' in a game and each evening people would gather around the radio to listen to news updates, [like this one](#).

Aerial Warfare

The term **dog-fight** describes the intense in-air battle between small groups of aircraft fighting at close range where strategic manoeuvring was key to winning.

A pilot who destroyed 5 enemy aircrafts during a battle was known as **fighter ace**.



This statue was made to commemorate the pilots who fought in the Battle of Britain.

Photo courtesy of bobalciouslondon(@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

Aerial Warfare

Read this story extract which describes a dog-fight battle from the point of view of an Allied pilot. You could ask a family member to help you if it is tricky!

Through a break in the cloud, Tom could see a band of Messerschmitts advancing towards him like a pack of wolves stalking their prey. For a few seconds, it was as if time had stood still, then the air around him exploded in deafening gun-fire as the Allied and Nazi planes flew amongst each other at crazily close-range. Tom nosed dived down through the cloud, swerving around the left-hand side of the enemy fighters to try and gain a better position, but one of the Messerschmitts was right on his tail and blasted him with a round of fire. With his heart beating wildly, Tom spun sideways and immediately pulled his Spitfire upwards into a vertical climb, somehow managing to avoid being hit. His head pounded and he felt dizzy and disorientated from the sudden change in altitude but the air in front was clear and he managed to level out. Now, with an advantageous birds-eye view of the battle scene a few hundred feet below, he dived back down. He opened fire on the enemy plane, which had forced his retreat, and almost instantly it erupted into flames.

Aerial Warfare

Think about all you have learnt about aerial warfare in the Battle of Britain. Can you think of some key words or phrases to describe the action and how it might have felt to witness such as thing?



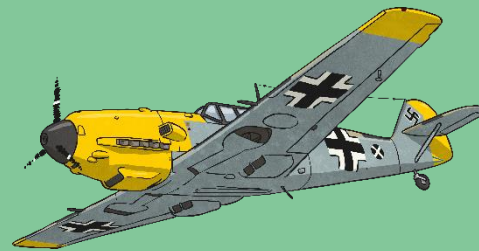
Popular Aircraft

Some of the most popular British aeroplanes to fight in the Battle of Britain were the Supermarine Spitfires and the Hawker Hurricanes. The Spitfires battled with the German fighter planes while the Hurricanes targeted the bombers.

Some of the most popular German aeroplanes were the Messerschmitt fighter planes and the Heinkel bombers.



Spitfire



Messerschmitt



Hawker Hurricane



Heinkel

Models and Paintings



Use the **Battle of Britain Planes Slides (coming up next)** to help you draw, paint or make a collage picture of one of the British or German aeroplanes.

Or...

Use the **Spitfire Paper Model** to make your very own model Spitfire.



Hawker Hurricane

British Fighter Plane



Supermarine Spitfire

British Fighter Plane



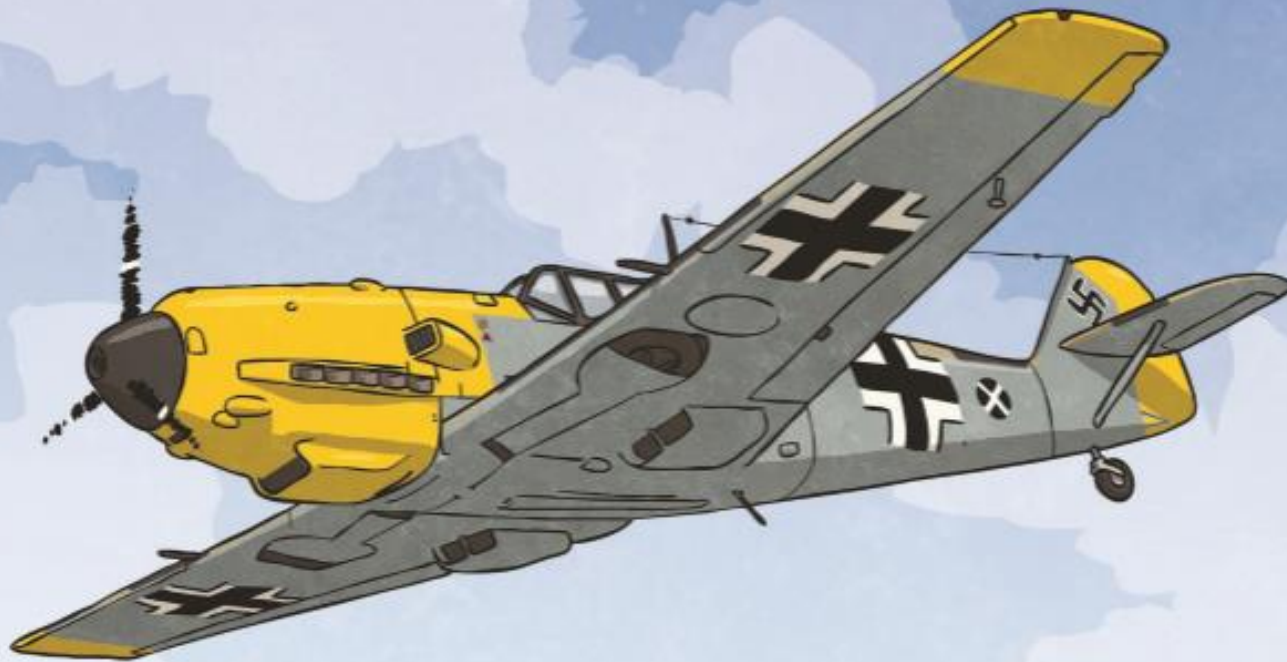
Heinkel He 111

German Bomber Plane

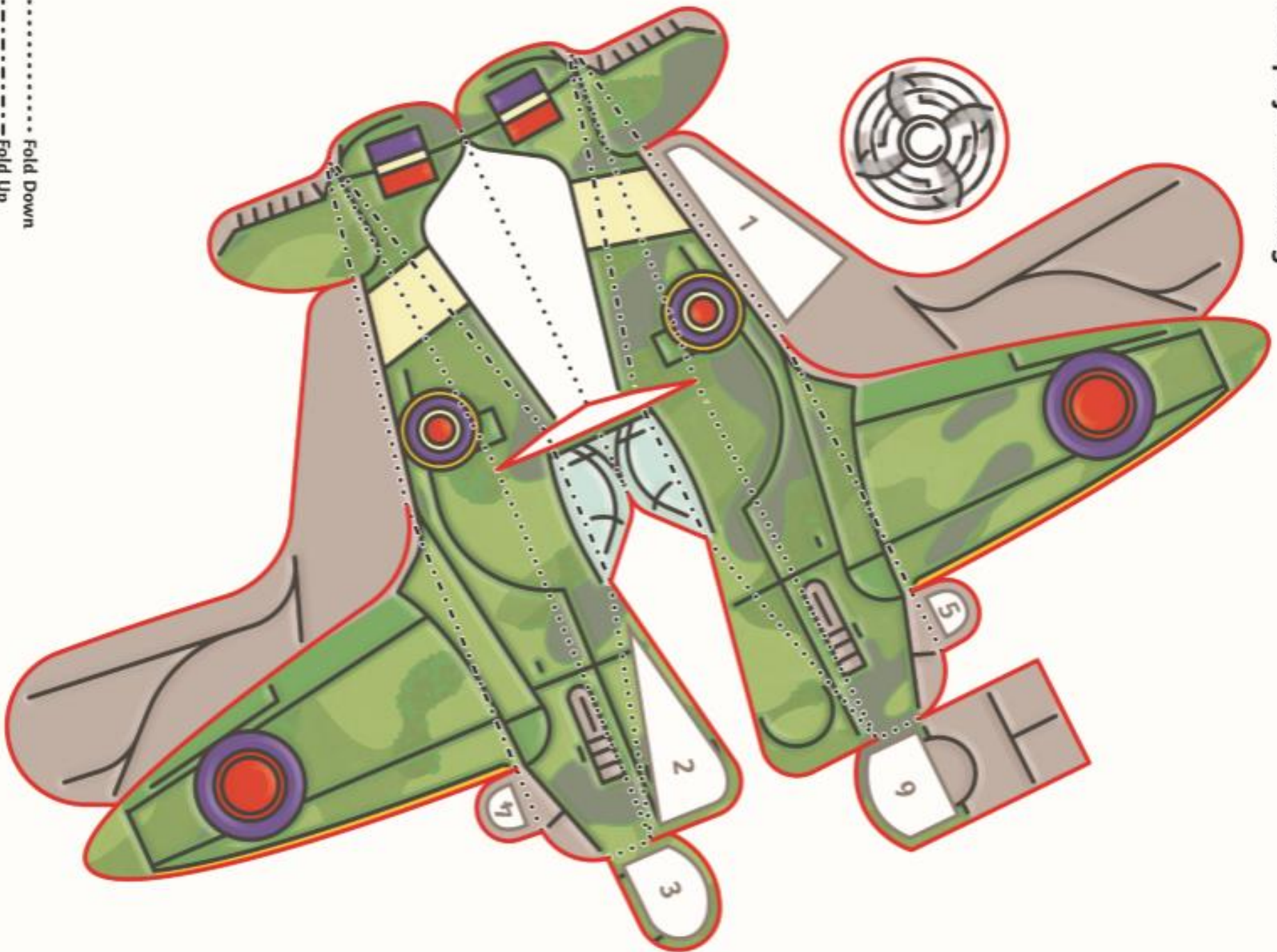


Messerschmitt BF109

German Fighter Plane



3D Spitfire Activity



..... Fold Down

- - - - - Fold Up

Spitfire Paper Craft Instructions

..... Fold Down

----- Fold Up



Step 1)

Carefully cut out the model using the solid outline. Be sure to cut out the small triangle in the centre of the plane, as shown.



Step 2)

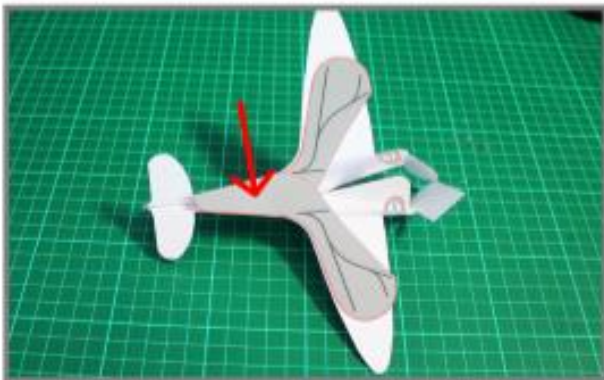
Fold along the dotted lines following the key, as shown.



Step 3)

Glue the backs of the cockpit and tail section together, as shown.





Step 4)

Fold around the bottom of the plane and glue the underside together using tab 1, as shown.



Step 5)

Glue the underside to the bottom of the wings, as shown. Make sure the bottom and top of the wings line up.



Step 6)

Glue down tab 1 on the front of the plane, as shown.





Step 7)

Glue down tab 2 on the front of the plane, as shown.



Step 8)

Curve around the bottom of the plane and glue it in place using tabs 3 and 4, as shown.



Step 9)

Glue the propeller onto the front of the plane using tab 5, as shown.



Step 10)

(Optional) Cut the white section off of the tail, as shown.



