



# HISTORY BITES

## LITTLE NIBBLES OF HISTORY

### *How did Britain win THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN?*

The RAF only had 749 fighters, while the Germans had 2,550 aircraft. Just how did Britain win when so outnumbered?

The 'Battle of Britain' was the first major military campaign fought entirely by opposing air forces, and took place during World War II.

It was the ordinary men and women across the country who played a vital role in winning this battle?

They were Air Raid Wardens, firefighters and even those in the Home Guard, and don't forget those thousands of people, who between June and October 1940, built around 2,000 Hurricanes and Spitfires.



The odds were very much against the RAF being able to resist the onslaught from the Luftwaffe, even at the height of the battle the RAF only had 749 fighters available while the Germans had 2,550 aircraft.

Those working in factories were as vital as those on the front line, as without a continual supply of aircraft replacing those shot down, we would have lost!

...And we had an advantage, a secret weapon the Germans new nothing about. RADAR. By 1940 all along the UK coast were a series of radar stations, called 'Chain Home'. It was the first early warning radar system ever built. The radar stations could detect approaching German aircraft from up to 80 miles away.

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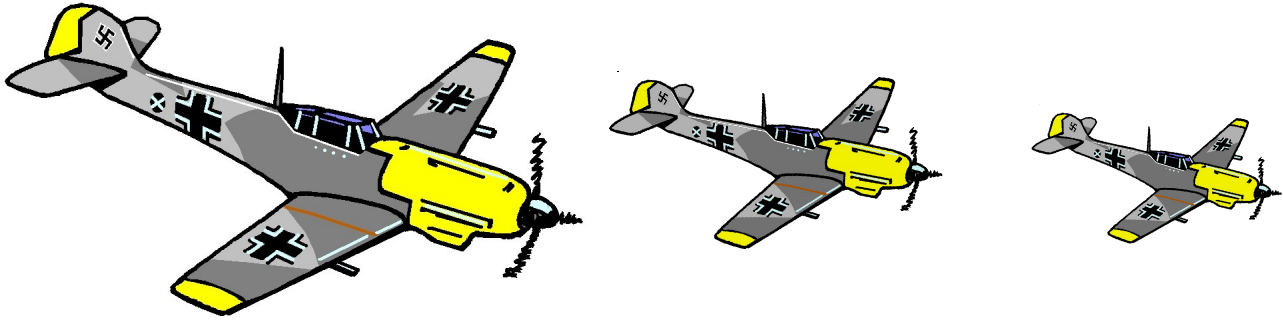
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Another decisive factor was time! A German aircraft crossing the English channel could be detected in 20 Minutes. BUT it took just 16 minutes to scramble RAF fighters to successfully intercept a raid, just 16 Minutes! It meant the RAF only had 4 minutes to decide how to respond to a Luftwaffe raid. But those 4 minutes proved to be just enough!!

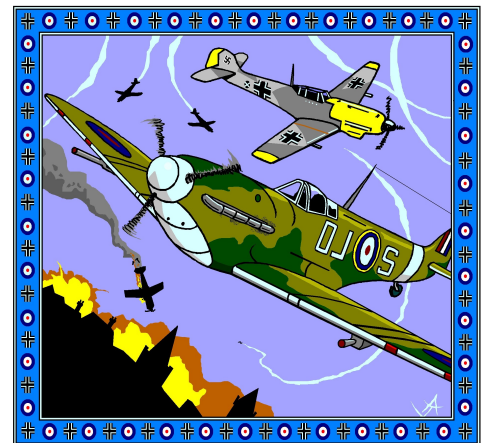
But the RAF pilots could only get into battle due to efforts and devotion of the ground crew of engineers, mechanics, and armourers, along with all those others who worked day and night on the stations to keep the pilots and their aircraft ready for battle.

They did this while under constant fire as the RAF stations were the main targets of the Luftwaffe, as they were attempting to take the RAF out of the battle.

We here at **EDUCATIONAL MUSICALS** have created a fabulous musical all about this historic conflict

### **THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN**

is a fantastic show created especially for children, with an exciting and fun script and 12 amazing songs. Find out more on our website where you can see samples of script and listen to excerpts from the score.



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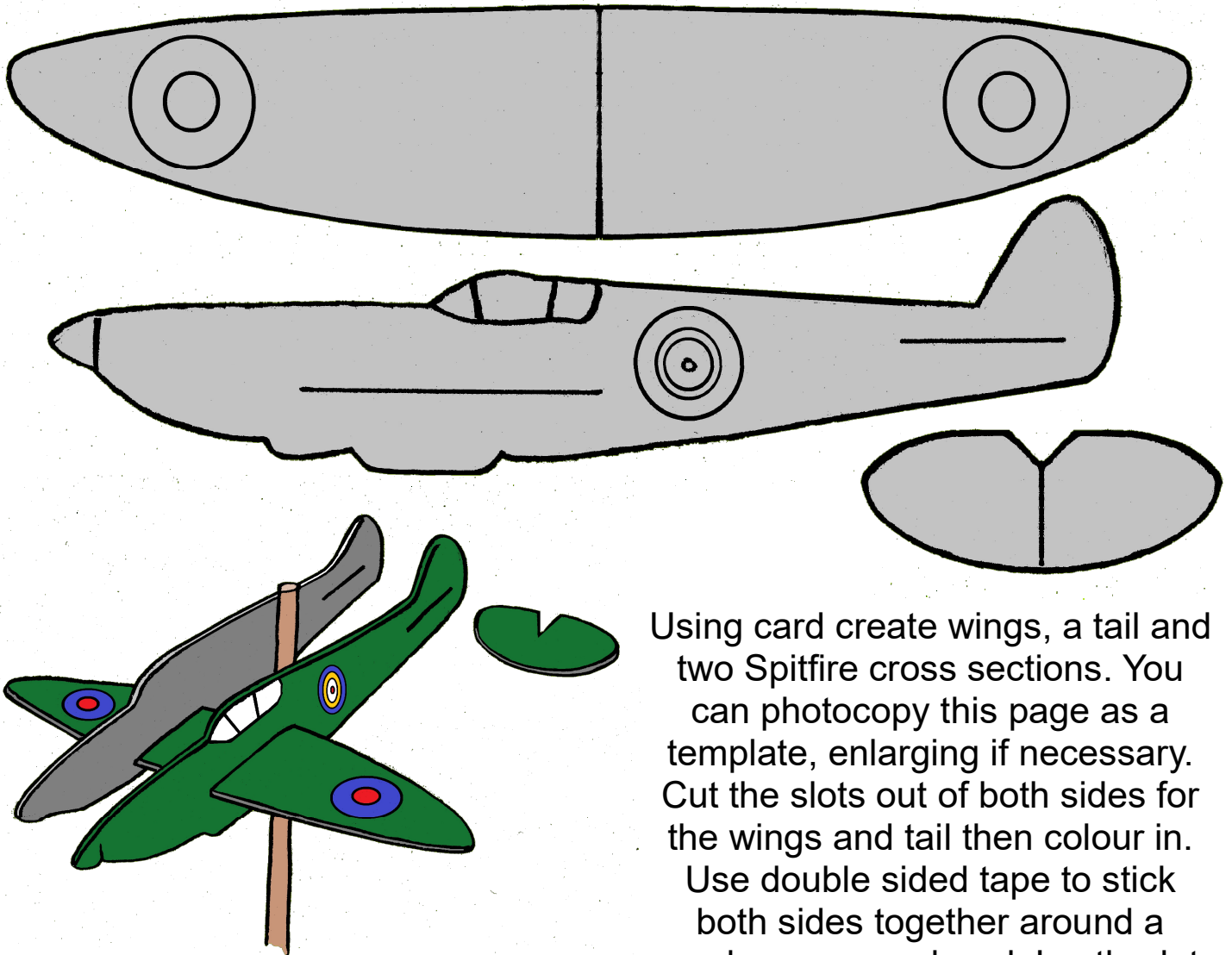


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1 lesson.

## CLASSROOM ACTIVITY SPITFIRE MODEL



Using card create wings, a tail and two Spitfire cross sections. You can photocopy this page as a template, enlarging if necessary. Cut the slots out of both sides for the wings and tail then colour in. Use double sided tape to stick both sides together around a garden cane or dowel. Lastly slot in the wings and tail.

*Isn't history interesting?*

**For more on this**

<https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/research/online-exhibitions/history-of-the-battle-of-britain/radar-the-battle-winner/>

<https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/research/online-exhibitions/history-of-the-battle-of-britain/the-new-tactics/>

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/our-history/anniversaries/battle-of-britain/>

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