



The Blitz

It was dangerous living in a big city during the war. Cities were the target of enemy aircraft that flew over at night and dropped bombs.

At 4:56pm on 7 September 1940, the air raid sirens wailed as the German Air Force, the Luftwaffe, launched a massive raid on London. Over 350 bombers flew across the Channel from airfields in France and dropped 300 tonnes of bombs on the docks and streets of the East End of London.

The enemy attacks from the Luftwaffe (the German air force) were called Air Raids.

What was the Blitz?

The heavy and frequent bombing attacks on London and other cities was known as the 'Blitz'. Night after night, from September 1940 until May 1941, German bombers attacked British cities, ports and industrial areas. London was bombed every day and night, except one, for eleven weeks. One third of London was destroyed.



What does 'Blitz' mean?

Blitz is a shortened form of the German word 'Blitzkrieg' (lightning war).

When did the Blitz start?

On the 7th September, 1940 the German air force changed its strategy of bombing the British air force and began to concentrate on bombing London. Nearly 2,000 people were killed or wounded in London's first night of the Blitz.

During the first month, German Air Force dropped 5,300 tons of high explosives on London in just 24 nights.

When did air raids take place?

Most air raids happened at night.

How were people warned that an air raid was about to take place?

People were warned of a likely air raid by loud sirens, positioned in different parts of towns and cities. During the Blitz, they became an almost daily part of life. The sirens made a very loud and long signal or warning sound. For an alert, the siren sound pitch rose and fell alternately. The All Clear was a continuous sound from the siren. Not every alert brought a raid, and sometimes raids happened when no alert had sounded. When people heard the siren they would stop what they were doing and make for a shelter.



L/O: Can I retrieve?

The Blitz



1. What was the name of the German air force?

2. What was 'The Blitz'?

3. What does the word 'Blitz' mean?

4. When did the Blitz start?

5. How were people in the cities warned about a possible Blitz?.

Restate the question.

Answer in a complete sentence.

Prove with evidence!



L/O: Can I find main idea and detail?

The Blitz



1. What is the main idea of the first three small paragraphs?

2. What is the main idea of paragraph four?

3. What is the main idea of paragraph six and seven ?

4. What is the main idea of the final paragraph?

5. What is the main idea of the whole page of information?

Restate the question.

Answer in a complete sentence.

Prove with evidence!



L/O: Can I understand author's choice?

The Blitz



1. Find and highlight the phrase 'target'. What does this word mean? How does the author help you to understand this?

2. Find and highlight the word 'frequent' what do you think it means? How does the author help you to understand this?

3. Find and highlight the word 'strategy'. What do you think it means?

4. Find and highlight the word 'siren'. What do you think it means? How does the author help you to understand this.

5. Find and highlight the phrase 'All clear'. What do you think it means?

Restate the question.

Answer in a complete sentence.

Prove with evidence!

