



ON THE HOME FRONT

Step back in time to the Second World War. In this hall you will be able to learn what life was like for the people who lived through the war.

Can you find Neville Chamberlain? (He stands opposite the drummer.)

Who was Neville Chamberlain?

.....

In his speech he refers to a 'piece of paper'. Was this:

- Notes for his speech
- His Airline Ticket
- An agreement between Great Britain and Germany
- A shopping list

Mr Chamberlain thought war had been avoided.

Complete the famous phrase (in the speech bubble), used after he met Hitler in 1938:

"I believe it is possible for in our"

But soon it became clear that war was coming and so the people of Britain began to prepare...

Move on until you can see the Anderson Shelter.

What were these shelters made from?

.....

Why were they needed?

.....
.....

Circle the three words that you think best describe how people would have felt whilst in the shelter.

Cold Cosy Cramped Excited Peaceful
Tired Frightened Sad Happy Bored

For children living in the cities life was about to change dramatically...

Look at the children in the waiting room.

Why are these children being evacuated?

.....
.....

List 4 things the children are carrying with them.

1)..... 2)..... 3)..... 4).....

What 4 things would you miss most if you were being evacuated today?

1)..... 2)..... 3)..... 4).....

Many children returned to their families when the feared bombing raids did not come. In the Autumn of 1940 their worst fears were to be realised, the Blitz began...

Take a look at the street scene.

What was the Blitz?

.....

There are six helpers in this scene.

Which job do you think was the most dangerous?

.....

Why?

.....

Imagine yourself as part of the scene, which helper would you have wanted to be?

.....

Why?

.....

During the war a blackout was enforced to prevent enemy bombers from detecting civilian occupied areas:

Turn your back on the Blitz scene. You will find a grey Fire engine.

How has the fire engine been adapted for use in the blackout?

.....

Other vehicles also had to observe blackout regulations but this might cause problems on the roads.

Can you think of any possible dangers of vehicles being adapted in this way?

.....

The threat of attack from air was always imminent...

Look around you.

What other ways did people protect themselves against air attack?

There are two particularly large objects, can you spot them?

1)..... 2).....

In order to protect the people, enemy aircraft needed to be detected so a Radar system was used.

Find the Radar receiver.

What could the operators tell?

- The distance the planes were away.
- The colour of the planes.
- What the planes were carrying.
- The number of planes.
- The direction the planes were coming from.

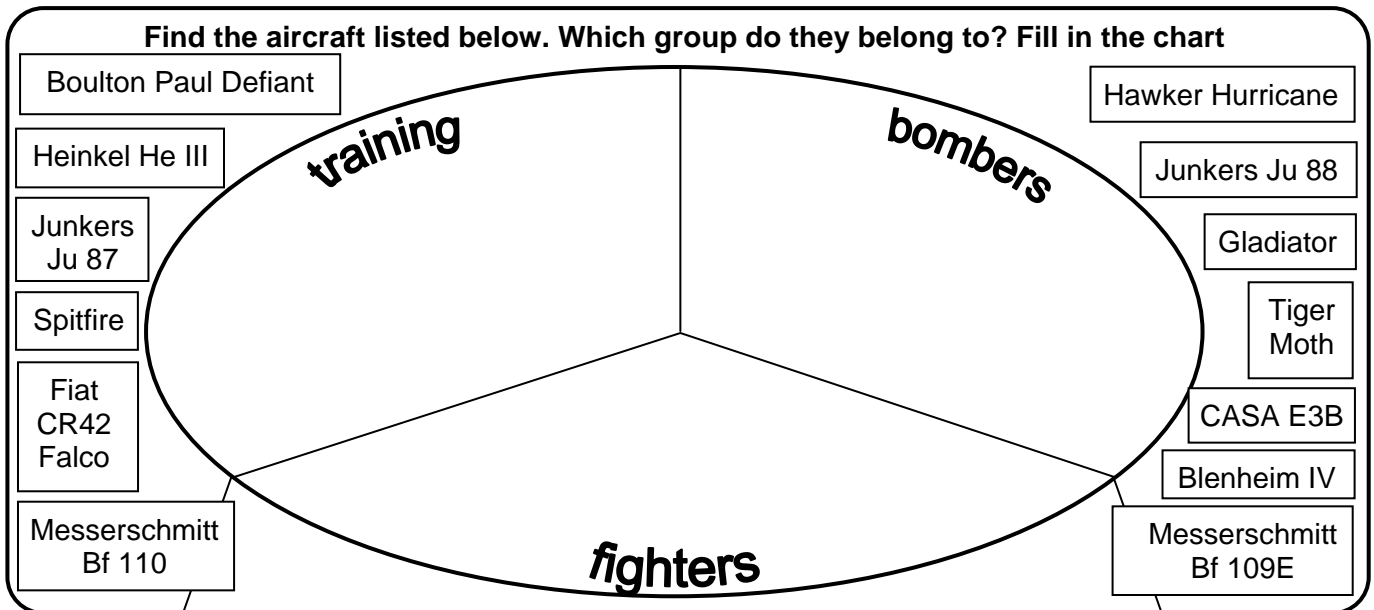
As you leave this gallery and move into the aircraft hall you will notice an unexploded bomb, imagine if this had fallen through the roof of your home.

As war continued on the home front, what was happening in the air...?

IN THE AIR

The aircraft of World War II were not used in the same way as those in World War I. The Royal Air Force had a greater part to play in the outcome of the Second World War, aircraft having many different but important roles to play during the Battle of Britain.

Find the aircraft listed below. Which group do they belong to? Fill in the chart



You will have noticed that not all the planes here were flown by the allied forces. Try separating the fighter planes into those flown by the Allied forces and those flown by the Axis forces.

Allied Forces (RAF and allies)

Axis Forces (Luftwaffe and allies)

Can you see any differences or similarities between the aircraft of the two air forces?

differences

similarities

Two of the most important planes in the Battle of Briatin were the Spitfire and the Hurricane. These were both fighter aircraft; can you spot any differences or similarities?

Fill in the missing gaps

Spitfires and Hurricanes were both powered by..... - engines. At the time of the Battle Britain they each had machine guns. More than took part in the battle, but the is more famous. The maximum speed of the Spitfire is km/h. The Battle of Britain took place in

You may have noticed by now that some of the planes have some unusual features...

Which of the planes have transparent noses?

.....

Why do they have transparent noses?

.....

.....

Whose job was it to sit in the transparent nose?

.....

Imagine you were the airman whose duty it was to sit in the nose of the plane during the flight, how would you feel?

.....

There are many symbols used on aircraft. Nowadays you might see the company name printed on the side of the aircraft.

Look around! You will be able to see many different symbols.

Choose one symbol from an Axis forces aircraft and one from an Allied forces aircraft and try drawing them below.

Allied Forces

Axis Forces

As you walk through the rest of the museum see what other features and symbols you can see. Maybe you will already be familiar with some...