



Strike Hard, Strike Sure: Bomber Command 1939-1945

Classroom Resource

Supporting information for teachers

What is the resource?

This resource provides a taste of some of the issues explored within the RAF Museum exhibition, Strike Hard, Strike Sure: Bomber Command 1939-1945. The resource focuses on debating activities connected to the RAF's hardest-fought campaign in the Second World War and some of the strategic considerations and ethical issues faced at the time and reflected upon today.

How can I use it?

The resource is for use in the classroom and can be used as a stand-alone activity, or it can support a visit to the RAF Museum, London.

The resource is a 'plug and play' so is ready to be shown on classroom screens. It contains everything you need to deliver three practical activities.

Each activity can be used as a stand-alone lesson or elements of the activities can be combined to provide a dynamic lesson. This resource provides a flexible framework to look at some of the contemporary perspectives, operational constraints and ethical issues of Bomber Command's strategic campaign and a look at the way this was carried out jointly with allies in a combined offensive, drawing from contemporary voices with different stances in the form of quotations.

You may also decide to use the activities as starters for your existing curriculum or you may choose to build a unit of work around the issues raised.

What are the activities?

Stand Your Ground!

Students review a series of quotations from people at the time that give some context to how subsequent decisions were made. Following these, a series of statements are shown regarding potentially controversial issues related to the bombing campaign. Pupils are asked to move to different sides of the room to show if they are 'for' or 'against' a series of statements. Each are explained in advance and students are asked to justify their positions.

Persuade Me

In this activity students explore the deeper ethical issues around bombing attacks on human targets, with particular reference to the well-known raid on the city of Dresden in February 1945. Participants divided into small teams, weigh up the two sides of the debate that took place before and after the attack and draw on their own sense of ethics and then decide whether the attack should have taken place or not.

Full Circle

Statements relating to the bombing campaign are debated by students in a quick-fire response exercise involving going back and forth with pros and cons. Sitting in a circle, each student must give an alternating 'for' or 'against' argument or statement. This allows both sides to be considered and will give participants an opportunity to explore different points of view.

What curriculum areas does it support?

Curriculum links can be found within the following subjects: Citizenship, English, History, Politics & Government, PSHE and Science.

The content can also be used as stimulus for extra-curricular debate clubs.

What skills does it support with my students?

It focuses on discussion and debating skills and is for use across Key Stages 4 and 5.

What next?

If you have found the activities in this resource thought-provoking you can find out more about the issues raised by visiting our exhibition [Strike Hard, Strike Sure : Bomber Command, 1939 - 1945 London Fly Through - YouTube](#)

Workshops at the Museum

Supplement your exhibition visit with a 60-minute workshop facilitated by staff from the Museum's Access and Learning team. Click here for further details: <https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london/schools/school-activity-programme/>

How can I provide feedback?

We would love to know what you think about this resource. If you have any comments, please email learning-london@rafmuseum.org