

# Britain at War



These activities are for you to do at home. You can do all of them or choose the ones that you find most interesting.

## Activities

1. Britain and its inhabitants have fought in or endured several significant conflicts throughout history. Use a range of sources to find out about the conflicts listed and Britain's involvement. Record your findings in a table. Include the following column headings: name of conflict, date, countries or people involved, one major cause and one major consequence of the conflict.

- Norman Conquest of England
- Wars of the Roses
- English Civil War
- Napoleonic Wars
- Crimean War
- First World War
- Second World War

2. Discuss with a family member what the words 'conflict' and 'war' mean and look up their meaning in a dictionary. Then use a dictionary to write definitions for the terminology below.

alliance

expansionism

fascism

imperialism

invasion

militarism

nationalism

retaliation

3. Use your existing knowledge and a range of sources to write a report about the First World War. Record information as notes on a mind map first, under headings such as causes, warring nations, key events, front line, home front and how the war ended. Use your mind map to help you write your report. Include a title, an opening paragraph, a timeline of key events, subheadings, detailed facts, precise topic vocabulary and images with captions.



4. Use a range of sources to look at images of First World War trenches. Find out about trench warfare and then answer the questions.
  - Why were trenches used during the First World War?
  - What did trench warfare involve?
  - What was life like for the soldiers in a First World War trench?
5. Use your existing knowledge and a range of sources to write a report about the Second World War. Record information as notes on a mind map first, under headings, such as causes, warring nations, key events, effects of the war on everyday life and how the war ended. Use your mind map to help you write your report. Include a title, an opening paragraph, a timeline of key events, subheadings, detailed facts, precise topic vocabulary and images with captions.
6. Use a range of sources to find out about the following important events, which involved Britain during the Second World War: Battle of Britain, the Blitz and D-Day. Use bullet points to write a list of key findings about each event.
7. The Ministry of Information produced persuasive posters during both the First and Second World Wars to affect people's opinions and actions. Use online sources to learn more about wartime posters and to find examples. Then answer the questions.
  - What was the purpose of persuasive posters in the First and Second World Wars?
  - Propaganda was a feature of some wartime posters. What is the definition of the word propaganda?
  - In what different ways did posters encourage British people to get involved in the war effort during the First and Second World Wars?
  - Choose some wartime posters to explore and answer these questions: Who was the poster aimed at? What was it meant to achieve? How effective do you think it was and why?
8. Experts developed different weapons, innovations and technology during the First and Second World Wars to help each side defeat their enemies. Examples include artillery, aircraft and radar. Find out about the weapons, innovations, and technology developed, then create an information poster about one development that interests you. Include a title, images with captions and detailed facts.



9. Read a historical narrative, poems or age-appropriate real-life stories about either the First or Second World War. There are many suitable and award-winning titles available. Examples include: *Letters from the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll, *War Horse*, *Private Peaceful* or *Only Remembered* by Michael Morpurgo, *The Skylark's War* by Hilary McKay, *Poems from the Second World War* by Gaby Morgan, *Archie's War* by Marcia Williams, *Anne Frank – The Diary of a Young Girl (Abridged for young readers)* by Mirjam Pressler or *Voices from the Second World War* by First News.
10. Finish your home learning by writing a summary of the topic, explaining what you have learned about Britain's involvement in conflicts throughout history and the First and Second World Wars.

### Useful websites

- Britannica Kids – Norman Conquest
- Britannica Kids – Wars of the Roses
- Britannica Kids – English Civil War
- DKfindout! – Facts About The Napoleonic Wars
- Britannica Kids – Crimean War
- BBC Bitesize – World War One – KS2 History
- BBC Teach – World War Two
- Imperial War Museums – Living in the Trenches
- Britannica Kids – Battle of Britain
- Britannica Kids – Blitz
- Britannica Kids – D-Day
- BBC Teach – How propaganda was used during World War Two – History KS2
- Imperial War Museums – Second World War Posters

### Good reads

| Title   | Author           | ISBN          |
|---|------------------|---------------|
| Usborne History of Britain: The First World War | Henry Brook      | 9781409570240 |
| Weapons of World War I                          | Matt Doeden      | 9781474748384 |
| Poppy Field                                     | Michael Morpurgo | 9781407181424 |
| DK Eyewitness: World War II                     | DK               | 9781409343677 |
| Weapons of World War II                         | Matt Doeden      | 9781474748377 |
| When we were Warriors                           | Emma Carroll     | 9780571350407 |



