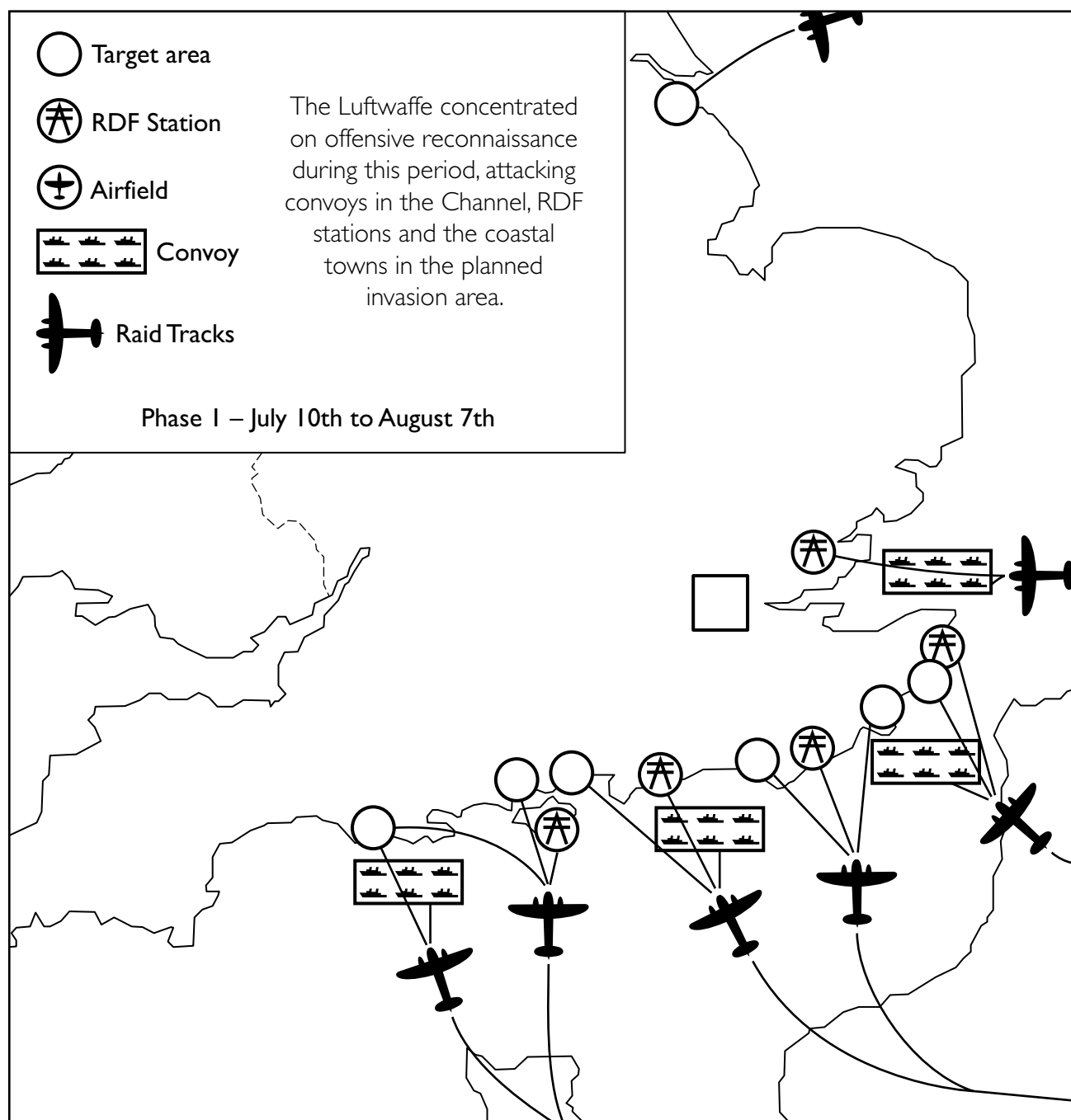


The Battle begins

Here is a battle map showing the first weeks of the Battle of Britain.



Teacher's sheet

Based on **pages 10 and 11** of *Children in the Second World War*

The Battle begins

Age range

- Years 3/4 (SP4/5).
- Years 5/6 (SP6/7).

Resources

Copies of the worksheet. Map of England.

Using the worksheet

This activity can be used to help students with their map reading skills. Students can use a map of England to find the names of the places targeted on the map.

This map shows that during the early part of the war the Germans concentrated on bombing convoys carrying supplies, coastal areas where a landing might take place, and RDF bases. Larger inland cities were not yet being bombed.

Younger students

The students can answer these questions.

Questions (and answers)

Write these questions on the board for the students to try. (Answers in brackets.)

1. What parts of Britain are the German bombers targeting, the coast or inland? (the coast)
2. What do the circles with marks inside stand for? (Royal Defence Force bases)
3. Why do you think the Germans wanted to bomb the RDF bases? (to prevent them from defending against the bombers)
4. What do the boats stand for? (convoys bringing supplies to Britain)
5. Why do you think the Germans wanted to bomb convoys? (so no supplies could get through to Britain)

More able students can try the questions for the older students.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Extract information from a map.
- Know some of the German targets during the first part of the Battle of Britain.

Older students

The students could start by answering the questions set for younger students then move on to these questions. (Answers in brackets.)

Questions (and answers)

Write these questions on the board for the students to try.

1. Besides England, what are the other countries on the map? (Wales and France)
2. What country are the bombers flying from? (France)
3. Why do you think the Germans wanted to bomb the RDF? (to destroy the British ability to fight back)
4. Why do you think the Germans wanted to bomb the coastal areas? (to destroy British ships, to destroy coastal defences, to destroy British docks and shipyards)

Outcomes

The students can:

- Extract information from a map.
- Know some of the German targets during the first part of the Battle of Britain.