

Navigators - British Bulldog



Overview

British Bulldog is a competency-based thematic unit with a history focus, telling the fascinating story of Winston Churchill. He is Britain's most well-known Prime Minister, famous for leading Britain to victory during World War II and delivering inspiring speeches to encourage those fighting overseas and those at home. We will learn, through his life story, all about his achievements and ongoing legacy.

Winston Churchill – the Early Years

Winston Churchill was born into a very wealthy aristocratic family in Blenheim Palace, Oxford, in 1874. He went to Harrow, a famous boarding school for boys, when he was 9. Unfortunately, he was very unhappy there. When he was 18, Churchill went to Sandhurst Military College. He was a brilliant writer and speaker, and became a newspaper reporter and soldier, winning lots of medals for bravery. He decided to become a politician and became the MP for Oldham in 1901.



Ghastly Gallipoli

At the start of WW1, Churchill was in charge of the Navy, but he made some disastrous decisions, one of which was at a place called Gallipoli in Turkey. Churchill decided to attack the Turks and the 8 1/2 month long battle that followed killed nearly 500,000 men.

Winston Churchill in World War II

In March / April 1940, Germany invaded northern Europe. On 10th May, Neville Chamberlain was forced to step down as Prime Minister as he and his ministers had mistakenly thought they could still negotiate with Hitler. Winston Churchill took his place and vowed to fight on. He was Prime Minister from 1940-1945. Churchill's speeches have long been credited with helping the Allies to win World War II. Millions of people listened on the radio and his speeches inspired courage and commitment, both from those at home, and soldiers fighting overseas. His most famous speeches include 'Their Finest Hour' and 'Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat'.

Churchill's Creativity

Winston Churchill loved painting and became an excellent artist. Painting was an escape for him and helped his mental health. He also wrote over forty books and was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1953.

The End of an Era

When Winston Churchill died, on January 24th 1965, at the age of 90, the whole nation mourned. Churchill was given a state funeral. These were usually only held for members of the Royal Family.

Controversial Churchill

Some people now say that Churchill was not a hero at all, but a villain. In our culture, some of the things he said are now viewed as prejudiced. There have even been campaigns to remove his statues around the UK, because people are now offended by some of his views, even though they were popular at the time.

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Vocabulary

Admiralty	the Navy
Allies	the group of countries that fought with Britain against Germany and Japan in WW2
Aristocrat	the ruling upper-class
Boarding School	a school where pupils live
Gallipoli	a seaport town in Turkey
MP	Member of Parliament
Politics	the way that people living in groups make decisions
Prime Minister	the leader of the British government

Concept Flow

- To know who Winston Churchill was and why he is an important figure
- To know and be able to retell the life story of Winston Churchill
- To know what the main achievements of Winston Churchill were, both as a very capable politician and military leader
- To know that his views can now be seen as controversial
- To understand how speech and oratory can have both positive and negative effects
- To understand that, when exploring controversial views, we must look at a wide range of sources before drawing conclusions
- To understand the importance of courage, commitment and community



My Notes / Questions