

# The Blitz in Scotland

## What Was the Blitz?

The blitz was a quick and surprise attack during the Second World War. Blitz is the German word for lightning. Scotland was bombed over 500 times during the war and 2500 people were killed.

## Why Was Scotland Bombed?

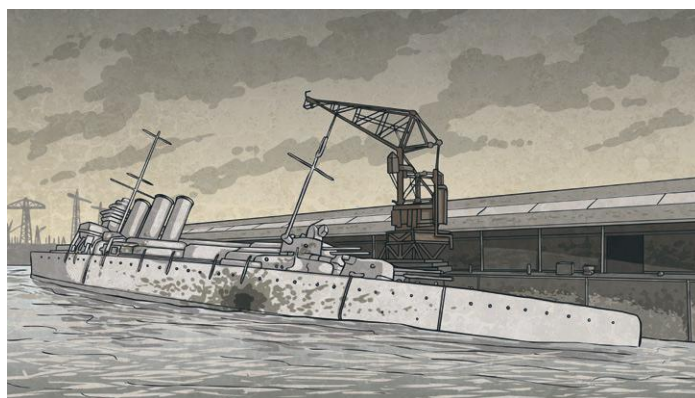
Scotland was bombed because it had:



factories



coal mines

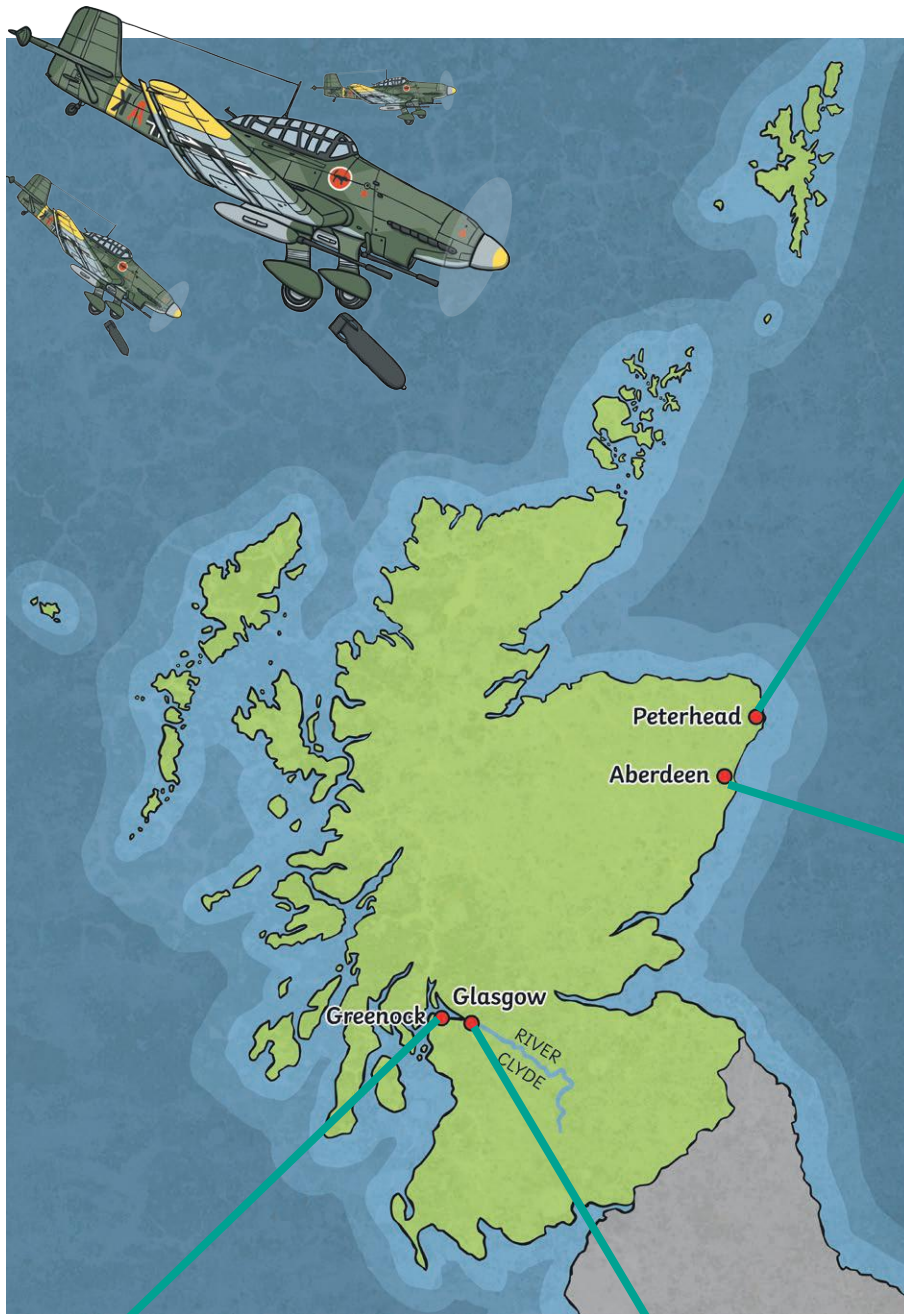


shipyards



These places were important to the war effort because weapons and bombs were made there. This made them a target for German planes. Many people lived next to where they worked so hundreds were killed during the raids.

### Scottish places bombed during the Second World War:



#### Peterhead

Peterhead was the second most bombed place in Britain. It was bombed over 28 times.

#### Aberdeen

On the night of 21st April 1943, between 40 and 50 bombers flew over Aberdeen. 125 people were killed and over 10 000 houses were bombed.

#### Greenock

On the 6th and 7th May 1941, 50 German planes bombed Greenock. 280 people were killed and over 1200 were injured.

#### Clydebank

On the 13th and 14th March 1941, about 400 German planes dropped bombs on Clydebank. 528 people were killed and over 1000 bombs fell.

# Questions

1. Complete the sentence.

The blitz was \_\_\_\_\_

2. Blitz is the German word for...

lightning

thunder

war

3. Name two places in Scotland that were bombed.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. True or false?

True      False

Scotland was bombed over 500 times.

Scotland's shipyards were bombed.

Peterhead was the most bombed city in Britain.

5. Why did the Luftwaffe bomb factories? Give a reason for your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Look at the map.

Why do you think Peterhead was the second most bombed place in Britain?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Use two words to describe a blitz.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Write two facts you have learnt about the blitz in Scotland.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge:** Use the map to create a timeline of the blitz in Scotland. Research other areas in Scotland that were bombed during the blitz.



# Answers

1. Complete the sentence.

The blitz was **a quick and surprise attack during the Second World War.**

2. Blitz is the German word for...

lightning

thunder

war

3. Name two places in Scotland that were bombed.

**Places in Scotland that were bombed were Aberdeen, Glasgow, Greenock, Peterhead, Clydebank. (Answers may vary.)**

4. True or false?

True      False

Scotland was bombed over 500 times.

Scotland's shipyards were bombed.

Peterhead was the most bombed city in Britain.

5. Why did the Luftwaffe bomb factories? Give a reason for your answer.

**The Luftwaffe bombed factories because they made supplies for the war effort and hundreds of people worked there. (Answers may vary.)**

6. Look at the map.

Why do you think Peterhead was the second most bombed place in Britain?

**Peterhead was the second most bombed place in Britain because it was the first place the planes reached when they left Germany. (Answers may vary.)**

7. Use two words to describe a blitz.

**Answers may vary.**

8. Write two facts you have learnt about the blitz in Scotland.

**Answers may vary.**

**Challenge: Answers may vary.**

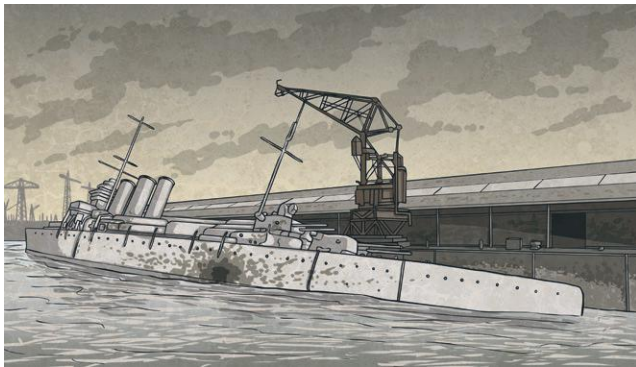
# The Blitz in Scotland

## What Was the Blitz?

The blitz was a sudden and quick attack during the Second World War. 'Blitzkrieg' is a German word meaning 'lightning war'. It happened over a period of 8 months between September 1940 and May 1941. Scotland was bombed over 500 times and 2500 people were killed.

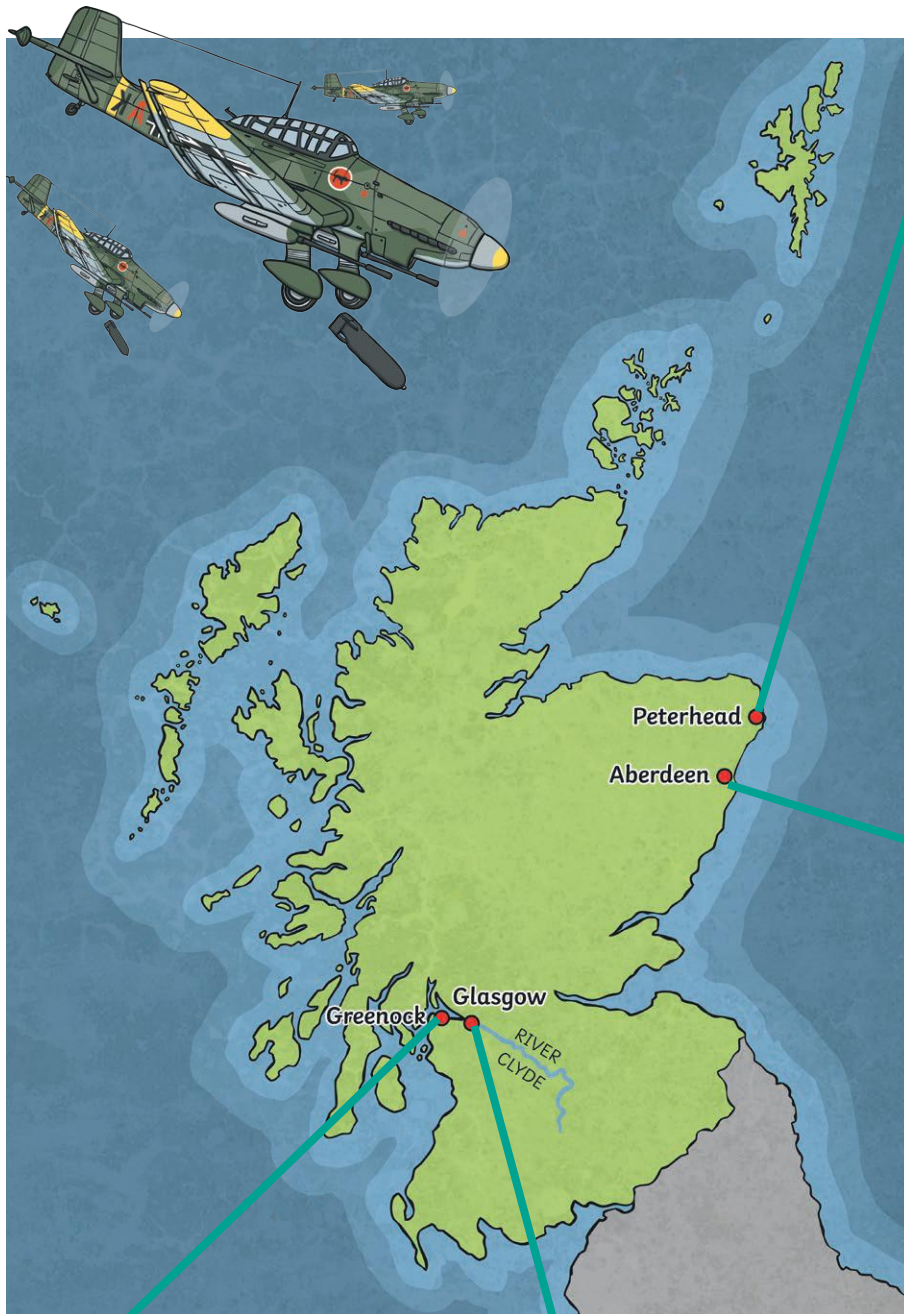
## Why Was Scotland Bombed?

The German air force, called the Luftwaffe, dropped bombs to damage and destroy industrial areas. Scotland had coalmines, factories and shipyards and they were very important to the war effort.



The Luftwaffe also wanted to attack civilian areas - a civilian is a person who is not in the armed forces. Thousands of homes were destroyed in Scotland and many people were left homeless.

### Scottish places bombed during the Second World War:



#### Peterhead

Peterhead was the second most bombed place in Britain. It was bombed over 28 times. Peterhead was the first place that German bombers reached when they flew across the North Sea.

#### Aberdeen

On the night of 21st April 1943, between 40 and 50 bombers flew over Aberdeen. 98 civilians and 27 soldiers were killed and over 10 000 houses were bombed.

#### Greenock

On the 6th and 7th May 1941, 50 German planes bombed Greenock. 280 people were killed and over 1200 were injured.

#### Clydebank

On the 13th and 14th March 1941, about 400 German planes dropped bombs on Clydebank. 528 people were killed and over 1000 bombs fell. 40 000 people were left homeless. Only seven homes were undamaged.



# Questions

1. Complete the sentence.

The blitz was \_\_\_\_\_

2. 'Blitzkrieg' is a German word meaning \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why was Scotland bombed in the Second World War?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why were factories important for the war effort?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why was Peterhead the second most bombed place in Britain?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Use three adjectives to describe a blitz.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What is a civilian?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Why were there a lot of homeless people during the Second World War?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Draw a line to match the place to the information.

Aberdeen

the second most bombed place in Britain

Greenock

98 civilians were killed during a blitz

Clydebank

is on the west coast of Scotland

Peterhead

40 000 people were left homeless here

10. Write three facts you have learnt about the blitz in Scotland.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge:** Use the map to create a timeline of the blitz in Scotland. Research other areas in Scotland that were bombed during the blitz.

# Answers

1. Complete the sentence.

The blitz was **a sudden and quick attack during the Second World War.**

2. 'Blitzkrieg' is a German word meaning **lightning war.**

3. Why was Scotland bombed in the Second World War?

**Scotland was bombed in the Second World War because it had coal mines, factories and shipyards, which were important for the war effort.**

4. Why were factories important for the war effort?

**Factories were important for the war effort because weapons and bombs were made there. (Answers may vary.)**

5. Why was Peterhead the second most bombed place in Britain?

**Peterhead was the second most bombed place in Britain because it was the first place that the planes reached when they left Germany. Answers may vary.**

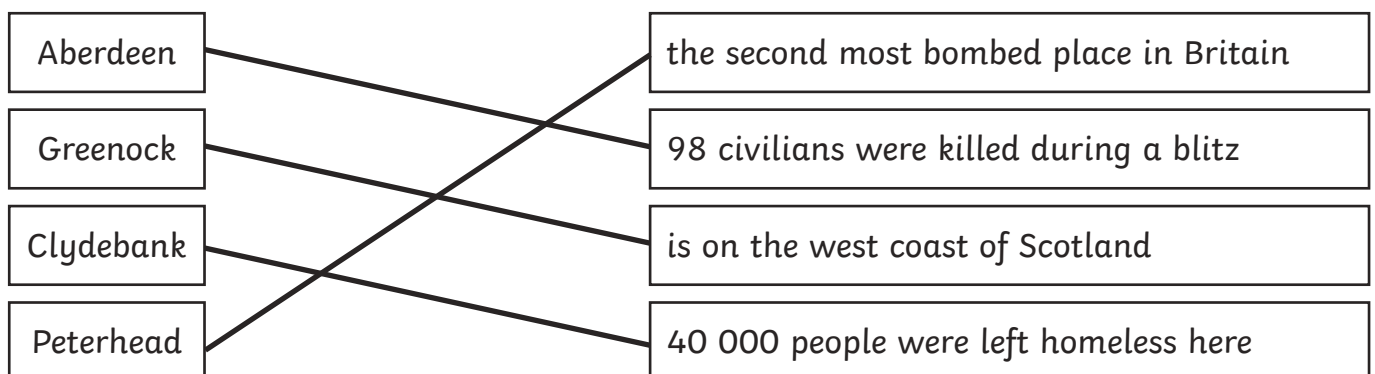
6. Use three adjectives to describe a blitz. **Answers may vary.**

7. What is a civilian? **A civilian is a person who is not in the armed forces.**

8. Why were there a lot of homeless people during the Second World War?

**There were a lot of homeless people during the Second World War because thousands of homes were destroyed in the blitz.**

9. Draw a line to match the place to the information.



10. Write three facts you have learnt about the blitz in Scotland.

**Answers may vary.**

**Challenge:** Use the map to create a timeline of the blitz in Scotland. Research other areas in Scotland that were bombed during the blitz. **Answers may vary.**



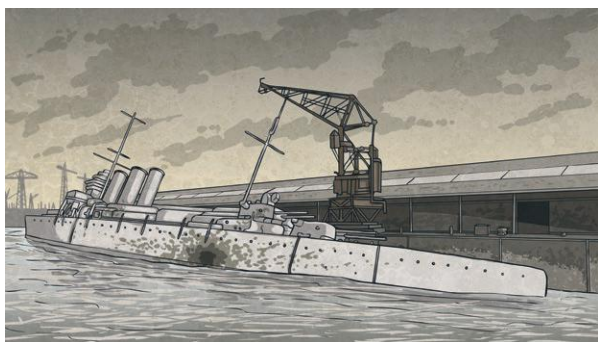
# The Blitz in Scotland

## What Was the Blitz?

The blitz was a sudden and quick attack during the Second World War. 'Blitzkrieg' is a German word meaning 'lightning war'. It happened over a period of eight months between September 1940 and May 1941. Scotland was air raided over 500 times and approximately 2500 people were killed.

## Why Was Scotland Bombed?

The German air force, called the Luftwaffe, dropped bombs to damage and destroy industrial areas. Scotland had coalmines, factories and shipyards, which were very important to the war effort.

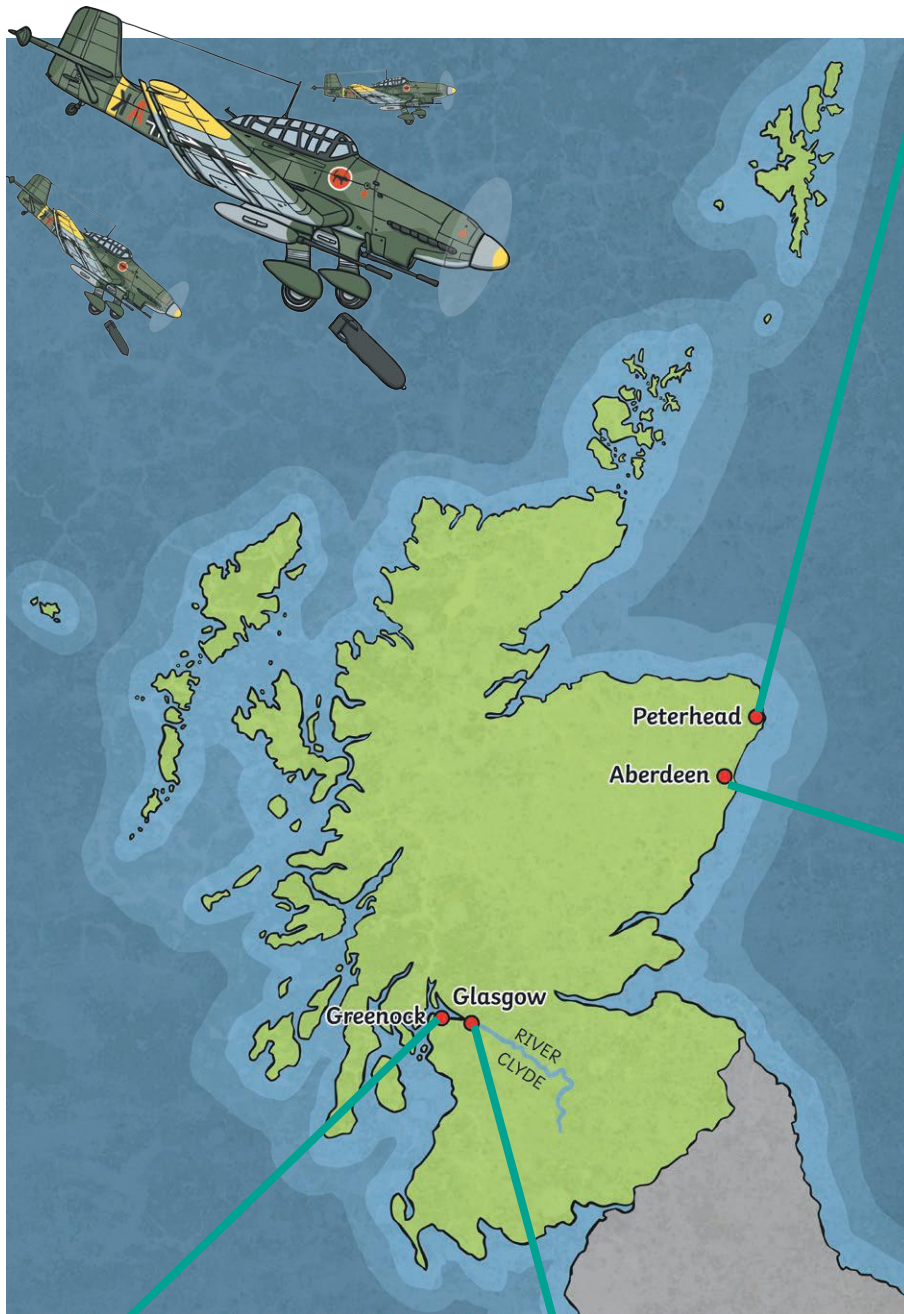


The Luftwaffe also wanted to attack civilian areas - a civilian is a person who is not in the armed forces. Thousands of homes were destroyed in Scotland and many people were left homeless. The blitz was terrifying - Hitler wanted it to affect the morale of British citizens and make them believe they could not win the war.

## The Clydebank Blitz

On the 13th and 14th March 1941, Clydebank was bombed. Clydebank, located seven miles from the centre of Glasgow, was a busy industrial area. Factories along the river Clyde were producing munitions and weapons for the war effort; as a result, it was a prime target for the Luftwaffe. The strikes were so quick that the residents had no time to evacuate and only seven houses were left undamaged.

## Scottish places bombed during the Second World War:



### Peterhead

Peterhead was the second most bombed place in Britain. It was bombed over 28 times. The RAF base was bombed in November 1941. Peterhead was the first place that German bombers reached when they flew across the North Sea.

### Aberdeen

On the night of 21st April 1943, between 40 and 50 bombers flew over Aberdeen. 98 civilians and 27 soldiers were killed and over 10 000 houses were bombed.

### Greenock

On the 6th and 7th May 1941, 50 German planes bombed Greenock. 280 people were killed and over 1200 were injured.

### Clydebank

On the 13th and 14th March 1941, about 400 German planes dropped bombs on Clydebank. 528 people were killed and over 1000 bombs fell. 40 000 people were left homeless. It is Scotland's worst civilian disaster.

# Questions

1. What was the blitz?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does Blitzkrieg mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why was 'blitz' an appropriate word to use to describe the raids?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Write three adjectives to describe a blitz.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why did the Luftwaffe bomb Scotland?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Which word in the text tells you a blitz was an unpleasant experience?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why do you think Peterhead was the second most bombed place in Britain?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Write the Scottish places bombed in chronological order.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Give two reasons why so many people were killed in the Clydebank blitz.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Write three facts you have learnt about the blitz in Scotland.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge:** Write a diary entry for a factory worker who has experienced a bombing raid. Think about how they felt and what they saw and heard.



# Answers

1. What was the blitz?  
**The blitz was a sudden and quick attack during the Second World War.**
2. What does Blitzkrieg mean?  
**Blitzkrieg means lightning war in German.**
3. Why was 'blitz' an appropriate word to use to describe the raids?  
**Blitz was an appropriate word to use because the attacks were sudden and quick just like a bolt of lightning.**
4. Write three adjectives to describe a blitz. **Answers may vary.**
5. Why did the Luftwaffe bomb Scotland?  
**The Luftwaffe bombed Scotland because it had industrial areas that were important for the war effort.**
6. Which word in the text tells you a blitz was an unpleasant experience?  
**The word in the text that tells you that the blitz was an unpleasant experience is terrifying.**
7. Why do you think Peterhead was the second most bombed place in Britain?  
**Peterhead was the second most bombed place in Britain because it was the first place that German bombers reached when they flew across the North Sea.(Answers may vary.)**
8. Write the Scottish places bombed in chronological order.  
**13th and 14th March 1941 – Clydebank**  
**6th and 7th May 1941 - Greenock**  
**November 1941 - Peterhead**  
**21st April 1943 - Aberdeen**
9. Give two reasons why so many people were killed in the Clydebank blitz.  
**Reasons why so many people were killed in Clydebank are: the attack was quick so no one could take shelter; hundreds of bombs were dropped; the bombs were dropped on factories and houses.**
10. Write three facts you have learnt about the blitz in Scotland. **Answers may vary.**

Challenge: Answers may vary.