The Retreat to Dunkirk

Resources:
Retreat to Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain

Suggested Readings
http://goo.gl/BWDPp

http://goo.gl/YN0vx

Key Question: Was Dunkirk a Victory or Defeat?

Comprehension:
Slide 1:
1. What are the French and British Forces relying on for the defence of France?
2. Through which area do German forces manage to slip into France and why is this a problem for the allies?
3. Why are the allied forces in Belgium forced to retreat?
4. How long does it take for Germany to defeat France?
5. Who signs an armistice with Germany?

Slide 2:
1. What happened in May 1940?
2. What has Captain Bill Tennant being doing at the end of May?
3. Who is attacking Calais and how long will it last?
4. How long has it taken the Germans to drive the allies to the coast?
5. Which German planes attack retreating soldiers and refugees?
6. How many allied troops are trapped on the coast?

Slide 3:
1. What was life like for British soldiers stationed in France during the winter of 1939/40?
2. Why was Reg Gill not concerned about fighting on the front lines?
3. Why was the Ardennes forest lightly guarded?
4. Why was it hard for soldiers to move along the roads?
5. What did British soldiers complain about on the retreat?
6. Why did many French soldiers refuse to evacuate?

Slide 4:
1. What is the name of the British operation to save the trapped British Expeditionary Force?
2. Who was named Prime Minister and why did he get the job?
3. To which city has the British and French retreated?
4. What does Lord Halifax suggest to the Cabinet meeting?
5. Why does the BEF have time to create defences around Dunkirk?

Slide 5:
1. What are the retreating British soldiers ordered to do with their equipment?
2. How do the soldiers react on seeing Dunkirk and how does the officer resolve the situation?
3. In what order were the soldiers evacuated?
4. What was it like for soldiers on the beach?
5. Why was there plenty of material to create a raft?
6. How did the author get off the beach?

Slide 6:
1. Who was assigned to the civilian ships?
2. What happened on the 31st May?
3. Why are so many men dying on the beaches?

Slide 7:
1. How does the British Government film contrast with the reality on the beaches?
2. Who else was rescued apart from the British?
3. What types of ships helped in the rescue effort?
4. How are the British and French troops described?
5. The video keeps highlighting the strength of which branch of the armed forces?

Slide 8:
1. How many allied troops were evacuated by Operation Dynamo?
2. What does source B suggest about the rescue?
3. Why might Dunkirk be described as the greatest defeat in British History?
4. According to Source C - Did all civilians expect to be defeated?
Slide 9:

1. How many men did Churchill think would be rescued? In light of this how might you evaluate the success of Operation Dynamo?
2. Which branch of the German military does Churchill suggest gave the Germans the advantage?
3. How many ships took part in Operation Dynamo?
4. Does Churchill's speech sound defeatist? Give an example of his language to support your answer.
5. What losses does Churchill recount?
6. Who do you think Churchill is referring to when he talks about the New World coming to the liberation of the old?

Videos:
Dunkirk: http://goo.gl/7X6jU