

Ellie's History Lesson: The Home Front in World War II

Learning objective: To understand how life changed for children in Britain during the Second World War.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Use full sentences and refer back to the text to support your answers.

Ellie the elephant has a wonderful memory for history. She often tells stories about the Second World War, a global conflict that lasted from 1939 to 1945. During this time, life in Britain changed significantly for children. To keep them safe from danger, the government organised the evacuation. Thousands of children were sent away from busy cities to the countryside, carrying only a small suitcase and a gas mask.

At home, life was very different due to rationing. Because food was scarce, every person was given a ration book. This allowed them to buy a small amount of items like sugar, butter, and meat using Australian dollars and cents. Families were careful not to waste anything. Many people also built Anderson shelters in their gardens. These were made of corrugated steel and provided a safe place to hide during air raids. Despite these challenges, people on the Home Front showed great resilience. They grew their own vegetables in 'Dig for Victory' gardens and worked together to support one another, ensuring that life continued even during the most difficult years of the war.

Word bank: Evacuation · Rationing · Anderson Shelter · Home Front · Identity

1. What two items were children required to carry with them when they were evacuated? (2 marks)

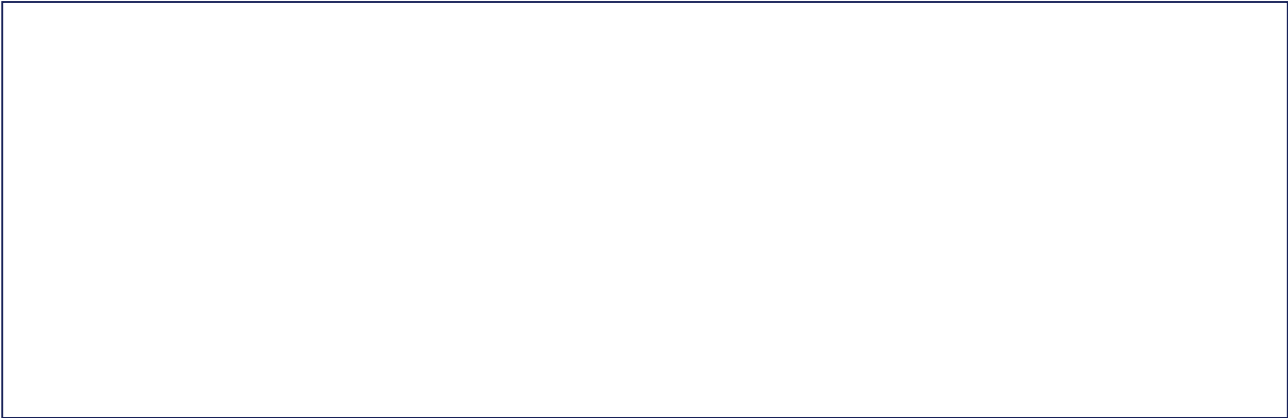
2. What was the purpose of an Anderson shelter? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think families had to use ration books to buy food? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, how did people show resilience during the war? (2 marks)

5. If you were a child living during the war, which part of life on the Home Front do you think would be the most difficult to adapt to? Explain your reason. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a 'Dig for Victory' garden with a small Anderson shelter visible in the background.



Extension challenge: Research what a 'ration book' looked like. Create your own pretend ration book and list five items you think might have been on a typical family's shopping list.