

History: Life on the Home Front during the Second World War

Learning objective: To understand the impact of the Second World War on daily life in Britain, including rationing, evacuation, and the role of the Home Front.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of the Second World War to provide detailed answers. Think about what life was like for children and families living in Britain between 1939 and 1945.

Ellie the elephant has been reading her history books about the Second World War. She has learned that the 'Home Front' was the name given to the activities of the people who stayed in Britain while the war was fought abroad. From food shortages to children moving to the countryside, everyone had to play their part to help the country stay safe and fed.

Word bank: Evacuation · Rationing · Home Front · Air Raid Shelter · Identity Card · Dig for Victory · Blackout

1. Explain why the government introduced 'rationing' during the war. What kind of items were rationed? (2 marks)

2. What was the purpose of 'evacuation' and how might a child have felt leaving their family to go to a new home? (2 marks)

3. During the 'Blackout', why were people required to cover their windows with thick curtains or shutters at night? (2 marks)

4. The 'Dig for Victory' campaign encouraged people to grow their own food. Why was this important for the war effort? (2 marks)

5. If a family went to the shop with a budget of £1, why might they have struggled to buy everything they needed during the war compared to today? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a poster that might have been seen in a British garden during the war, encouraging people to 'Dig for Victory' by growing their own vegetables.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a child being evacuated to the countryside. Write a short postcard home to your parents describing one thing you miss about your city life and one thing you enjoy about your new surroundings.