

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

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key events and daily life in Britain during the Second World War.

Read each question carefully. Answer in full sentences where appropriate. Ensure your handwriting is clear and neat.

Ellie the elephant has been reading historical diaries from the 1940s. She learned that life in Britain changed significantly during the Second World War. Children were sent away from cities to stay in the countryside to keep them safe, families had to use coupons to buy food, and everyone had to follow strict rules to keep lights hidden at night to avoid being seen by aircraft.

Word bank: Evacuation · Rationing · Air raid shelter · Anderson shelter · Blackout · Home Front · Allies · Axis

1. Explain the purpose of the 'Blackout' during the war. Why was it necessary for people to cover their windows at night? (2 marks)

2. What was 'rationing' and why did the government introduce it in 1940? (2 marks)

3. Name one type of air raid shelter used by families in their gardens and describe what it was made from. (2 marks)

4. What was the main reason thousands of children were evacuated from cities to the countryside? (2 marks)

5. Identify two items that were rationed during the war and explain why these specific items might have been difficult to get. (4 marks)

6. Imagine you are a child living in 1941. Describe how your daily life would be different compared to your life today. Consider school, food, and playtime. (5 marks)

7. Why do you think it was important for the government to issue propaganda posters during the war? Give an example of how a poster might encourage people to help the war effort. (3 marks)

8. Who were the 'Allies' and the 'Axis' powers? Name one country from each side. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw an Anderson shelter in a back garden. Include details like the corrugated metal roof and the soil piled on top for protection.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Imagine you are a historian discovering an old suitcase from 1942. Write a short list of five items you might find inside and explain why each item would have been important to a person living through the war.