

Ellie's Home Front History Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the impact of the Second World War on the British Home Front, including rationing, evacuation, and the role of women.

Ellie the elephant has been busy researching the Home Front! Below is a sequence of events and experiences. Your task is to correctly sort these into two categories: 'Life for Children' and 'Life for Adults'. After sorting, explain why each action was necessary during the war years.

Word bank: Evacuation · Ration books · Dig for Victory · Air raid shelters · Land Army · Gas mask drills · Blackout curtains

1. Sort the following terms into the correct category and explain one reason why they were important: Evacuation, Ration books, Dig for Victory, Air raid shelters, Land Army, Gas mask drills, Blackout curtains. (6 marks)

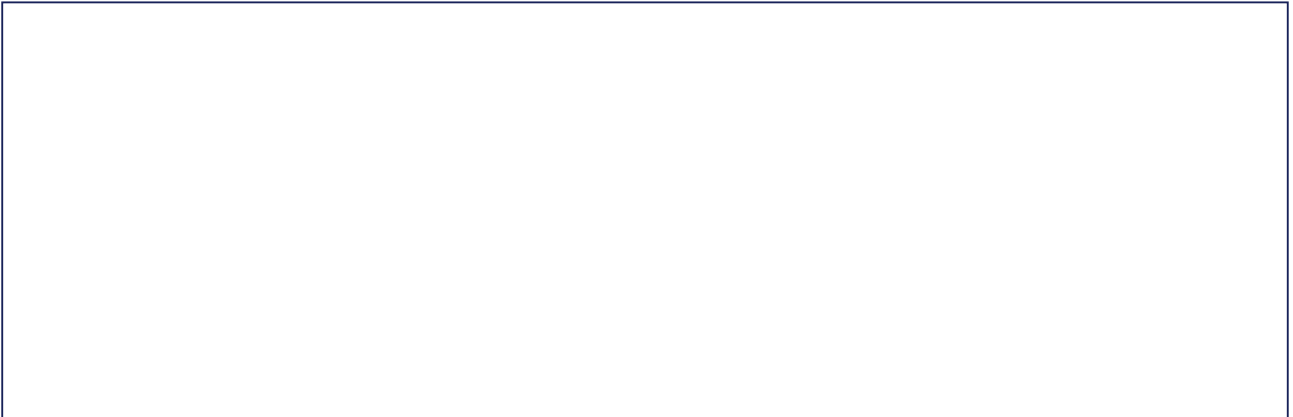
2. Why were 'Ration books' introduced by the government in 1940, and how did they affect a family's weekly shop? (2 marks)

3. Ellie explains that people had to pay for items using controlled prices. If a loaf of bread cost 1s (one shilling, which is 5p in modern decimal) before the war, and rationing made it scarce, why did the government keep prices fixed? (2 marks)

4. What was the main purpose of the 'Dig for Victory' campaign, and where might people have grown their vegetables? (2 marks)

5. Why were 'Blackout curtains' essential for every household during the night? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Dig for Victory' poster that Ellie might have pinned up in her garden, showing vegetables growing in a space that used to be a flower bed.



Extension challenge: Research what a typical weekly ration was for one person. Write a short diary entry from the perspective of a child in 1942 describing a meal you made using only your ration allowance.