

Year 5 History: Understanding World War II with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To recall and understand key terms, events, and experiences related to the Second World War.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of World War II. Read the term or question on the front, think of the answer, and then check your knowledge against the definition provided.

What was the 'Home Front'?

The term used to describe life in Britain, including the people, industry, and activities that supported the war effort while the soldiers were away fighting.

What was 'Evacuation'?

The process of moving children and vulnerable people from cities to the countryside to keep them safe from bombing raids.

Who were the 'Allies'?

The group of countries, including Britain, France, and later the USA and the Soviet Union, who joined together to fight against the Axis powers.

Who were the 'Axis' powers?

The group of countries led by Germany, Italy, and Japan that fought against the Allies during the war.

What was 'Rationing'?

A system introduced by the government to control the amount of food and supplies people could buy, to ensure everyone had a fair share during shortages.

What was 'The Blitz'?

A period of intense bombing raids by the German air force on British cities, particularly London, between 1940 and 1941.

What was the 'Blackout'?

A safety measure where people had to cover their windows with heavy curtains or shutters at night so no light could be seen from the air by enemy planes.

What was a 'Dig for Victory' campaign?

A government scheme that encouraged people to turn their gardens and parks into allotments to grow their own vegetables to prevent food shortages.

What was the role of the Women's Land Army?

A group of women who took over the jobs of men working on farms to ensure the country had enough food during the war.

What were 'Anderson Shelters'?

Small, arched shelters made of corrugated steel, often placed in back gardens, designed to protect families from bomb blasts.

What was the purpose of a gas mask?

A piece of equipment issued to every person in Britain to protect them from the threat of poison gas attacks, which were feared during the war.

Ellie the Elephant wants to know: what was a 'ration book'?

A small booklet issued to every citizen, containing coupons that had to be handed over to shopkeepers when buying goods like sugar, meat, or butter.