

Ellie's History Journal: Life on the Home Front

Learning objective: To structure a historical recount about the experiences of children during the Second World War.

Use the prompts below to help you write a recount from the perspective of a child living in Britain during the Second World War. Ensure you use historical facts, such as rationing, evacuation, or the blackout, to support your writing.

The siren began to wail across the rooftops, signalling that it was time to head to the shelter as the night sky turned dark.

Word bank: meanwhile · consequently · rationing · evacuation · air-raid shelter · nevertheless · furthermore · the blackout · due to · in addition

1. Introduction: Describe the atmosphere at home. Start with: Life in Britain changed dramatically when... (2 marks)

2. The Experience of Rationing: Explain how food supplies were managed. Start with: To ensure everyone had enough to eat, the government introduced... (3 marks)

3. The Blackout: Explain the importance of darkness. Start with: Every evening, we had to make sure our curtains were tightly closed because... (2 marks)

4. Evacuation: Describe the process of leaving the city. Start with: Many children were sent to the countryside to stay safe, which meant... (3 marks)

5. Conclusion: Reflect on the resilience of the people. Start with: Although those years were difficult, the community spirit showed that... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a primary source, such as a photograph or a diary entry from the 1940s, and write a short paragraph explaining what it tells us about life during the war that a textbook might not mention.