

Ellie's Wartime Home Front Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the impact of World War Two on the British Home Front, specifically focusing on rationing, evacuation, and the role of the Women's Land Army.

Ellie the elephant has been exploring historical archives and needs your help to sequence the events and decisions made during the Home Front. Read the scenarios below and categorise them into three specific themes: 'Rationing', 'Evacuation', or 'The Home Front Effort'. Then, provide a detailed justification for why each action was necessary for the survival of the nation.

Word bank: Rationing · Evacuation · Home Front Effort · Coupon · Air Raid · Land Army · Morale · Shortage

1. Scenario 1: A family in London receives a letter telling their child to pack a small suitcase and a gas mask to travel to the countryside. Sort this into a category and explain why this was deemed necessary for safety. (2 marks)

2. Scenario 2: A shopkeeper asks a customer for a ration book before selling them sugar and butter. Sort this into a category. Justify why the government introduced this system instead of letting people buy as much as they wanted. (2 marks)

3. Scenario 3: A group of volunteers joins the Women's Land Army to work on farms. Sort this into a category and explain how this helped prevent a food crisis in Britain. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast: How did the daily life of a child living in a city differ from a child living on a farm during the war? Consider the risks and the responsibilities. (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: If the government had not introduced rationing, what might have happened to the price of food and the ability of poorer families to eat? (3 marks)

6. Explain why: Why was it important for the government to keep up the morale of the British people during times of strict food shortages and constant threat? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Make Do and Mend' poster that Ellie might have found in an attic. Your poster should encourage people to fix their worn-out clothes instead of buying new ones, using creative patterns and colours.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in 1941. Write a short diary entry describing a day spent helping in a 'Victory Garden'. Describe what you are growing, why it is important to grow your own vegetables, and how you feel about the limited variety of food available compared to today.