

Ellie's History Lesson: Life in Wartime

Learning objective: To understand the experiences of children during the Second World War.

Read the story about Ellie the elephant. Use the word bank to help you. Write your answers in the boxes provided.

Ellie the elephant loves to look at old history books. She found a story about a young girl named Rose who lived in London during the Second World War. When the war began, many children were sent away to the countryside to keep them safe. These children were called evacuees. Rose had to pack a small suitcase with her clothes and her gas mask. She left her parents and travelled by train to a quiet village. Life in the city was hard because of the bombing, but life in the village was very different. Food was scarce, so the government used a system called rationing to make sure everyone had enough to eat. People were given special books to buy things like sugar, butter, and meat. Rose missed her home, but she made new friends and helped on a farm. She learned how to grow vegetables and look after chickens. Even though the war was a scary time, Rose remembered the kindness of the people who looked after her. Ellie thinks it is important to remember these stories so we can learn how people helped each other stay strong.

Word bank: evacuee · rationing · gas mask · countryside · safety · war

1. What were the children who were sent to the countryside called? (1 mark) (1 mark)

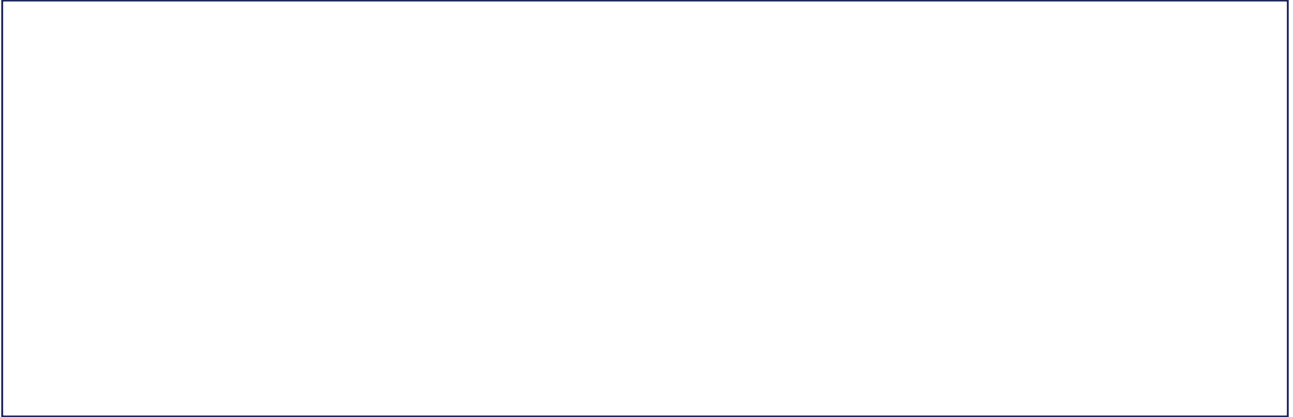
2. Name two things Rose had to pack in her suitcase. (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Why did the government use rationing? (1 mark) (1 mark)

4. How do you think Rose felt when she first arrived in the village? Use evidence from the text. (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. Do you think it was brave of the children to leave their homes? Explain why. (2 marks) (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Rose carrying her suitcase as she arrives at the train station in the quiet countryside.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are Rose. Write three sentences about what you might see when you arrive at the farm in the countryside.