

Wartime Memories: A Historical Diary Entry

Learning objective: To understand the experiences of children during the Second World War by composing a historical narrative from the perspective of an evacuee.

Imagine you are a child living in Britain in 1940. You have just been evacuated from your home in a busy city to live with a new family in the countryside. Use this template to write a diary entry describing your experiences, feelings, and the challenges of daily life during wartime. Try to use historical vocabulary and think about how life changed for children during this period.

Word bank: evacuation · rationing · gas mask · air raid siren · countryside · billet · home front · identity card

1. Setting the Scene: Describe where you have arrived and how it looks, sounds, and smells different from your home in the city. (3 marks)

2. The Journey: Explain why you had to leave your family and describe how you felt as you boarded the train with your suitcase and gas mask. (3 marks)

3. Daily Life: Compare and contrast your life in the city with the life you are now experiencing in the countryside. What tasks do you have to do? (4 marks)

4. Rationing: Describe a meal you might have had. Justify why the government introduced rationing and how it affected your family's shopping. (3 marks)

5. Reflections: Explain why you think it was important for children to be evacuated. What might have happened if they had stayed in the cities? (4 marks)

6. Personal Connection: If Ellie the elephant were to read your diary, what one question would you ask her about the history of the Second World War? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a short letter home to your parents. Include a justification for why you are being brave, and describe one positive thing you have discovered about your new surroundings. Use at least three words from the word bank.