

Ellie's Historical Archive: Life on the Home Front

Learning objective: To structure an informative report about the experiences of children during the Second World War, using historical vocabulary and chronological connectives.

Use the prompts below to build your report. Ellie the elephant has shared her notes, but she needs your help to organise them into a clear, detailed account of the Home Front. Ensure you use formal language and provide evidence to support your descriptions.

During the Second World War, life for children in Britain changed in dramatic and unexpected ways as the country prepared for the challenges of conflict.

Word bank: consequently · furthermore · in addition · evacuation · rationing · the Home Front · nevertheless · significantly · as a result · whilst

1. The Evacuation: Describe why children were moved from cities to the countryside. Start with: 'Thousands of children were evacuated from urban areas because...' (3 marks)

2. Rationing and Shortages: Explain how food supplies were managed. Start with: 'To ensure everyone had enough to eat, the government introduced rationing, which meant...' (3 marks)

3. The Role of the Home Front: Discuss the 'Dig for Victory' campaign. Start with: 'Families were encouraged to support the war effort at home by...' (3 marks)

4. Comparative Analysis: Compare the life of a child in 1940 to your life today. Start with: 'Whilst children today have many modern luxuries, children during the war had to cope with...' (4 marks)

5. Justification: Why was it considered essential for children to carry gas masks at all times? Start with: 'It was deemed necessary for children to carry gas masks because...' (3 marks)

6. Historical Impact: What might have happened to the morale of the country if the government had not organised the evacuation programme? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a child in 1941 writing a letter home to your parents. Describe your new life in the countryside, the food you are eating, and how you feel about the separation. Use at least three words from the word bank and ensure your tone reflects the historical period.