

Ellie's Home Front Diary: A Second World War Investigation

Learning objective: To analyse the impact of the Second World War on the British Home Front, specifically focusing on rationing, evacuation, and the role of women.

Ellie the elephant is sorting through a collection of historical artefacts found in an attic. Using the word bank provided, identify which category each artefact belongs to. Then, use your historical knowledge to justify the importance of these items in the daily lives of people living in Britain between 1939 and 1945.

Word bank: Ration Book · Gas Mask · Anderson Shelter · Land Army Uniform · Identity Card · Dig for Victory Poster

1. Choose two items from the word bank. Explain why these items were essential for a family's survival or contribution to the war effort during this period. (4 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the life of a child living in a city versus a child living in the countryside during the evacuation process. What were the potential emotional challenges? (3 marks)

3. Justify why the government introduced the 'Dig for Victory' campaign. How did this impact the average British household's diet? (3 marks)

4. What might happen if a citizen lost their ration book? Explain the consequences for their household. (2 marks)

5. Women took on many roles previously held by men during the war. Explain why this shift was necessary for the country to function. (3 marks)

6. If you were an archaeologist discovering an Anderson Shelter in a garden today, what evidence would it provide about the fears of civilians in the 1940s? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Dig for Victory' poster that would have been displayed in a local community allotment, encouraging people to grow their own vegetables to supplement their rations.



Extension challenge: Write a short diary entry from the perspective of a child who has just arrived in a rural village after being evacuated from a major city. Describe the sights, sounds, and feelings of your first evening in a new home, using at least three of the items from our word bank.