

Year 5 History Assessment: The Impact of the Second World War

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of key events, home-front life, and the consequences of World War II.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed, accurate answers. Ensure you use full sentences for all extended responses.

Ellie the elephant has been reading historical diaries from the 1940s. She notes that life in Britain changed dramatically during the Second World War. Families had to adapt to strict rules about food, the movement of children away from cities, and the constant threat of aerial bombardment. Meanwhile, Max the monkey has been studying the mathematical challenge of keeping a nation fed when supply ships were being intercepted at sea.

Word bank: Evacuation · Rationing · Allies · Axis · Home Front · Blitz · Propaganda · Air raid shelter

1. Identify two countries that were part of the 'Allies' and two countries that were part of the 'Axis' powers. (2 marks)

2. Explain why the British government introduced the policy of 'evacuation'. Who was primarily moved, and where were they sent? (3 marks)

3. What was 'rationing', and why was it considered necessary for the British Home Front? (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the experience of children living in cities versus those living in the countryside during the war. Use evidence to justify your answer. (4 marks)

5. What might have happened to the morale of the British public if the government had not used propaganda posters? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

6. Evaluate the importance of the 'Dig for Victory' campaign. How did this initiative change the way people used their gardens and public spaces? (3 marks)

7. Extended Writing Task: Imagine you are a child writing a letter home in 1941. Describe your daily routine, your feelings about being away from home, and how you contribute to the war effort. Ensure you include historical details such as air raid precautions or food shortages. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of an Anderson shelter. Include at least three features that would have helped keep a family safe during an air raid.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Greater Depth: Justify why history books often focus on the 'Home Front' as much as the actual battles. If you were a leader in 1940, what is one strategy you would implement to maintain national spirit, and why?