

WW2: The Home Front Challenge

Learning objective: To recall key facts about the Second World War, focusing on the experience of children, rationing, and the home front in Britain.

Read the questions carefully and use your historical knowledge to answer. Ellie the Elephant has shared some of her historical records to help you out!

Answer Key: 1. B (1939-1945), 2. True, 3. Rationing, 4. C (To keep children safe), 5. False (They were made of corrugated iron), 6. Identity Card, 7. True, 8. A (Dig for Victory), 9. True, 10. The Blitz.

Word bank: Evacuation · Rationing · Blitz · Air Raid Shelter · Home Front · Anderson · Identity Card · Propaganda

1. 1. Between which years did the Second World War take place? A) 1914-1918, B) 1939-1945*, C) 1940-1950, D) 1935-1940 (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: During the war, food, clothing, and petrol were strictly rationed to ensure fair distribution. (1 mark)

3. 3. What is the historical term for the system used to limit the amount of food a person could buy? (1 mark)

4. 4. Why were thousands of children evacuated from cities to the countryside? A) For a holiday, B) To help with farming, C) To keep them safe from bombing raids*, D) To go to better schools (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: Anderson shelters were built out of solid gold and silver. (1 mark)

6. 6. What document was every British citizen required to carry at all times during the war? (1 mark)

7. 7. True or False: Women played a vital role in the war effort by working in factories and on farms. (1 mark)

8. 8. What was the name of the government campaign that encouraged people to grow their own vegetables? A) Dig for Victory*, B) Grow for Great Britain, C) Plant for Peace, D) Harvest for Heroes (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: Gas masks were issued to all civilians in case of chemical attacks. (1 mark)

10. 10. What was the name given to the period of heavy German bombing raids on British cities? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene from the perspective of an evacuee arriving at a train station in the countryside, carrying only a small suitcase and wearing a gas mask box around their neck.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Questions: 1. Explain why the government felt it was necessary to introduce rationing. 2. Compare and contrast life in a city compared to the countryside during the war. 3. Justify your answer: Was the evacuation programme successful? 4. What might happen if the government had not introduced the 'Dig for Victory' campaign? 5. How did the role of women change society during the 1940s? 6. Write a short, persuasive diary entry from the perspective of a child who has just been told they are being evacuated to a village they have never visited.