

Ellie's Wartime Diary: A Home Front Perspective

Learning objective: To understand the experiences of children living on the British Home Front during the Second World War.

Imagine you are a child living in Britain in 1941. Use this diary template to record your observations and feelings about life during the war. Research key events like the Blitz, rationing, and evacuation to ensure your entry is historically accurate. Write in the first person and try to capture the daily routine of your chosen persona.

Word bank: evacuation · rationing · Anderson shelter · blackout · Home Front · air raid siren · identity card · Allies · Axis · propaganda

1. Setting the Scene: Describe where you are living and what the atmosphere is like in your town today. Mention a specific wartime challenge, such as the blackout or food shortages. (3 marks)

2. The Home Front Experience: Explain one way that the war has changed your daily life or school routine. How do you feel about these changes? (3 marks)

3. Safety and Precautions: Describe your preparations for an air raid. Where do you go when the siren sounds and what do you take with you? (3 marks)

4. Historical Impact: Why was the government encouraging people to 'Dig for Victory' or grow their own food? How does this link to the system of rationing? (4 marks)

5. Hopes for the Future: Reflect on a piece of news you heard on the wireless or read in a newspaper. What are you most looking forward to when the war eventually ends? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a specific aspect of the Home Front, such as the role of the Women's Land Army or the experience of being an evacuee, and write a second diary entry from that perspective.