

History: Britain during the Second World War

Learning objective: To understand the impact of the Second World War on the British home front, including evacuation, rationing, and the role of the Home Guard.

Use your historical knowledge to answer the following questions. Provide detailed explanations where required.

Ellie the elephant has been looking through her archives of historical documents. She has gathered information about how life changed for children and families in Britain between 1939 and 1945. Think about how the government managed resources and how communities supported one another during this challenging period.

Word bank: Evacuation · Rationing · Home Front · Air Raid Precautions · Anderson Shelter · Ministry of Food · Propaganda

1. Explain why the government introduced 'rationing' in 1940. What was one specific item that was strictly limited and why was it necessary to control supplies? (3 marks)

2. What was the purpose of the 'evacuation' scheme? Describe one emotion a child might have felt when leaving their home to move to the countryside. (2 marks)

3. How did the 'Home Guard' support the war effort? Who were the typical members of this group? (2 marks)

4. Compare an 'Anderson Shelter' to a 'Morrison Shelter'. Why were these structures vital for families living in cities during air raids? (3 marks)

5. If a family wanted to buy a luxury item like a new coat, why would they need 'coupons' as well as pounds (£) and pence? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a poster in the style of 1940s propaganda that encourages people to 'Dig for Victory' by growing their own vegetables in their gardens.



Extension challenge: Research a primary source from the Second World War, such as a diary entry or a photograph. Write a short paragraph explaining what this source tells us about the daily life of a person living in Britain during the war.