

WW2: Life on the Home Front

Learning objective: To explain the impact of the Second World War on civilians in Britain through an informative historical report.

Use the following structure to write your report. Ellie the Elephant says: 'Remember to use your best historical vocabulary and check your dates!'

As the Second World War engulfed the globe, life for families across Britain changed in ways that would have been unimaginable just a few years before.

Word bank: rationing · evacuation · the Blitz · consequently · nevertheless · furthermore · in addition · morale · significant · civilian

1. Introduction: Define when the war started and explain why the 'Home Front' was a vital part of the war effort. Start your paragraph with: 'The Second World War, which began in 1939, required every citizen to contribute to the war effort because...' (2 marks)

2. Evacuation: Describe the experiences of children who were sent away from cities. Start your paragraph with: 'Thousands of children were evacuated to the countryside to avoid the dangers of bombing raids; their experience was often...' (3 marks)

3. Rationing: Explain how food and clothing were restricted and why this was necessary. Start your paragraph with: 'To ensure that food supplies remained fair for everyone, the government introduced rationing, meaning that families were only allowed...' (3 marks)

4. The Blitz: Detail the challenges of living through nightly air raids. Start your paragraph with: 'During the period known as the Blitz, families had to seek shelter in Anderson shelters or underground stations whenever...' (3 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise the impact of the war on British society. Start your paragraph with: 'In conclusion, the war changed British life significantly by bringing communities together and highlighting the resilience of those on the home front...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a specific local hero or a piece of technology from the 1940s and add an extra paragraph to your report explaining how it helped the war effort.