Grade 5 History Assessment: The Second World War

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key events, causes, and impacts of the Second World War (1939–1945).

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide clear and accurate answers. Ensure you use the provided word bank to support your explanations where necessary.

Ellie the elephant has been reading through her history archives about the years 1939 to 1945. She has learned that the war was a global conflict that changed life in Britain forever, from the way people ate to how they kept their families safe. The conflict pitted two main groups against each other: the Allies and the Axis powers.

Word bank: Evacuation · Allies · Axis · Blitz · Rationing · Home Front · Propaganda · D-Day

1. Identify two countries that were part of the Allied powers during the Second World War. (2 marks)

2. Explain one reason why the British government introduced the system of rationing during the war. (2 marks)

3. What was the 'Blitz' and how did it affect the lives of children living in British cities? (3 marks)

4. Describe the purpose of 'evacuation'. Where were children typically sent and why? (3 marks)

5. Why was the D-Day landing in Normandy (1944) considered a significant turning point in the war? (3 marks)

6. Explain how propaganda was used by the government to influence public opinion on the Home Front. Give one specific example of how this might have looked. (4 marks)

7. Extended Writing: Imagine you are a child living in Britain in 1942. Write a diary entry explaining how your daily life has changed compared to before the war. You must include details about food, school, and how your family contributes to the war effort. (8 marks)

Draw: Draw a poster that might have been seen in a store window during the war to encourage people to 'Dig for Victory' or save their food scraps.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research one local historical site or memorial in your town or city that relates to the Second World War and write three sentences about its significance.