

YEAR 5 - WORLD WAR TWO EVACUATION FACTS

Key Vocabulary for the topic.

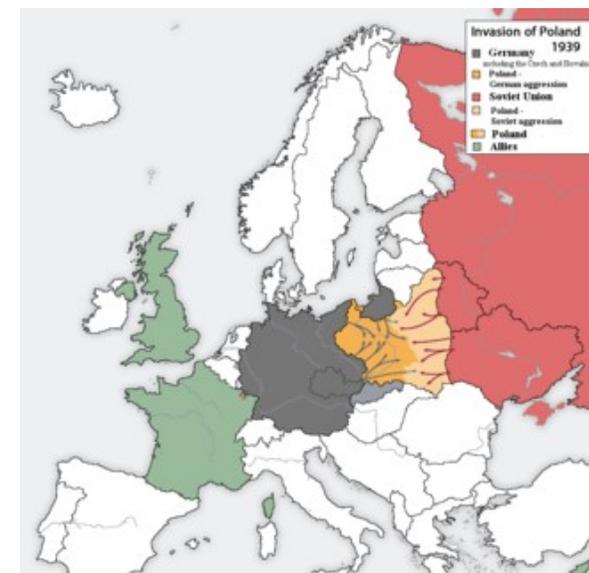
air raid	An attack by enemy planes dropping bombs.
allies	Countries including Britain and France, The Soviet Union and the USA who joined forces to fight the axis powers.
Anderson shelters	Air raid shelters built in gardens - named after Sir John Anderson.
axis	Germany, Japan, Italy and countries that fought against the allies.
blackout	A war time ban on street lights and other lights at night to prevent enemy planes finding easy targets for their bombs.
blitz	Attacked by bombs dropped by enemy aircraft.
evacuate	To send someone to a place of safety, away from a dangerous building, town, or area.
evacuee	Someone who is evacuated, moved away from danger, to an area of safety.
gas masks	Face masks to stop people breathing in poisonous gas from dropped bombs.
holocaust	The killing of millions of Jews by the Nazis.
invasion	When a foreign army enters a country by force.
Morrison shelters	Shelters that were under stairs or in a house.
Nazi	Short for National Socialist Party (in Germany) a follower of Hitler was also called a Nazi.
propaganda	News that is controlled to show your side in the most positive way and the enemy in the most negative way.
rationing	A system during World War 2 to limit the amount of food you were allowed to buy.

How did World War 2 start?

The leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler, had plans to take over other countries. In March 1938, Germany invaded and annexed Austria, which made other countries worried.

On 29th September 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders signed a treaty called the Munich Agreement. This allowed Hitler to annex the Sudetenland (an area of Czechoslovakia) if he agreed not to invade anywhere else.

However, in August 1939, Hitler broke the agreement and invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia, followed by Poland on 1st September. Britain, France and Poland had made a pact to support each other, so Britain and France declared war on Germany.



In September 1939 war was declared on Germany by France and Britain. The first evacuation of children to safer areas took place.



In January 1940 food rationing was introduced. Ration books were issued and people were encouraged to grow their own.



In June 1940 a second evacuation was organised to ensure the safety of over half a million children from the larger cities.



September 1940 saw the start of The Blitz. This was 9 long months of bombing that hit towns and cities across Britain.



In June 1941 Britain began to see clothes rationing. The slogan "Make Do and Mend" was used to encourage people to recycle.



In 1942 "Utility Clothes" were introduced. These were made to save material and had rules for the number of pleats and buttons.



In 1944 the Germans began to fire V1 missiles (Doodlebugs) at Britain. The third and final evacuation of children took



On May 8th, the war was declared over and VE Day (Victory in Europe) was marked by street parties.

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What was Evacuation?

During World War II, over 3.5 million children, along with some of their teachers and helpers, mothers with very young children, pregnant women and people with disabilities, were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing.

All evacuees had to take their gas mask, ration book and identity card. When they reached their destination, a billeting officer would arrange a host family for them.

Evacuation happened in waves, beginning on 1st September 1939. Other waves occurred at the start of the Battle of Britain and at the start of the Blitz.



Rationing

Supply ships were targeted by German bombers and it was necessary to conserve as much food as possible. Rationing meant that each person was only allowed a fixed amount of foods.

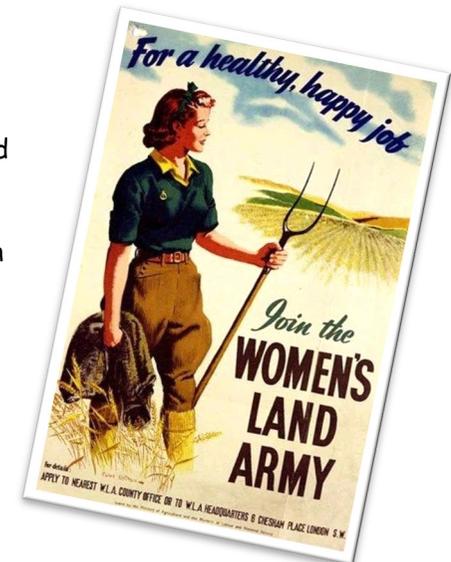
Ration books were issued, with coupons that showed people how much of each item they were allowed. Shopkeepers would remove or stamp the coupons when they were used.

People were also encouraged to 'Dig for Victory' and grow as much of their own food as possible. Petrol, soap, clothing and timber were also in short supply. Clothing ration books were issued and people were encouraged to 'make do and mend'.

The role of women during the war

Before the war, most women stayed at home and didn't go out to work. Those who did work were paid less than men and were generally restricted to 'women's jobs', such as nursing or working as a shop assistant.

However, when men were called up for active service, women were needed to do jobs such as making weapons, driving buses and trains or working in engineering or shipbuilding. Some joined the armed forces themselves. After the war, many women lost their jobs. However, their experiences led them to campaign for equal working rights and pay so that they could carry on leading more independent lives.



Commemorative events

Every year, special celebrations are planned to honour and remember the people whose lives were affected by the war.

Large commemorations are usually held for events including the evacuation from Dunkirk, VE Day, D-Day and the Battle of Britain, as well as for Remembrance Day.