

Year 6 Topic

A Child's War



A siren sounds and a Spitfire zooms overhead! It's 1939 and Britain is at war.

In this learning project, we'll imagine what it was like to be evacuated and live with a family other than our own. Using different source materials, we'll learn about evacuation and write letters to our families 'back home'. We'll plot the Second World War's events on a timeline and learn about rationing, Pearl Harbour and the Battle of Britain. From a range of maps, we'll identify safe and dangerous places during the war and make persuasive posters to support the war effort. After reading an extract from *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank, we'll write our own diaries. From a range of sources, we'll find out about children and school during the war and learn about discrimination that existed at the time. We'll learn about what it was like during the Blitz and think about how soldiers might have felt. In D&T, we'll make Anderson shelters and cook delicious wartime food.

At the end of the topic, we'll reflect on Winston Churchill's stirring speeches and write our own.

Help your child prepare for their project

We'll meet again! Why not visit a local museum together to investigate how the Second World War affected your local area? You could also read an exciting fiction book set during the war. Alternatively, you could 'make do and mend', working together to create a model inspired by the Second World War from recycled materials or unwanted household items.

What will you choose to do?

- Keep a diary and record things that are happening in your life.
- Talk to friends or family about their wartime or post-war memories or experiences. Write down or record their responses.
- Make a scrapbook of Second World War images and write captions for each one. Consider how the people in the photographs may be feeling.
- Dress up as an evacuated child. Make a gas mask box and write an evacuee label showing your name, address and school. Ask someone to take a photograph then print it with a sepia effect to make it look authentic!
- Make do and mend! Can you revamp some of your old clothes to make new clothes? Maybe you could 'upcycle' some unwanted household items and make them useful in a whole new way! Bring them to school to show your classmates and share your ideas.
- Find out what happened in your local area during the War. Were any children evacuated or did your local area host evacuees?
- Find some wartime recipes and make a typical meal using foods that would have been rationed at the time. Can you work out the nutritional value of the meal?
- Record a wartime radio broadcast. If possible, use an audio editing package to add sound effects, such as air raid sirens or overhead aircraft.
- Dig for Victory! Find out about the types of vegetables people were encouraged to grow during the War and have a go at growing or cooking some! Popular vegetables included potatoes, cabbage and cauliflowers.
- Imagine you are an evacuee: you're allowed to take just one book with you to your new home. Which one would you take? Conduct a survey amongst family and friends to find out which book they would choose and why. Present your findings to the class.
- Imagine a child has been evacuated to your home. How would you make them feel welcome? How could you support them if they were missing their home or family? Which places in your local area would you like to show them?