

ON THE HOME FRONT

Aims:

- to find out about the effects of the Second World War on children in their local area,
- to explore words associated with the home front, eg gas masks, ration books, black out, warnings
- to use artefacts, written sources, pictures and role play to explore life 'on the home front.

Preparation:

It would be useful if pupils had simple background information on the key information about the war and an awareness of evacuation and the different types of air raid shelters. This is not essential but it would be useful for us to know how much they have studied before the session

The activity:

- The activity requires approximately 1 ½ hours.
- The session works best if two extra adults are available (4 including teacher and Museum Education Service staff member.
- There needs an area approximately 3m by 2m at the front of the classroom and three tables that can accommodate up to 8 children at each table
- Access beforehand will be needed, as it takes 20 minutes to set up the session. Ideally this needs to be done while the class is elsewhere.
- It also takes about 20 minutes to pack away the artefacts at the end of the session.
- The session includes:
 - A mock air-raid practice
 - Information about evacuees on the Island and the chance to investigate a case full of artefacts
 - The 'Family Match-up' game, which enables pupils to match original artefacts to relevant family members
 - Stirrup pump drill where each child gets to put out the incendiary bomb
 - The 'Wartime or Not' game, where pupils become history detectives and group items according to age.

Follow-up ideas:



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