

What was the impact of World War 2 on the people of Britain?

Key Dates

November 1918	End of World War I
June 1919	Germany was forced to sign the Treaty of Versailles by the Allies.
September 1939	Britain and France declared war on Germany.
September 1939	1.5 million evacuees were sent to rural locations.
July-October 1940	The Battle of Britain
September 1940-May 1941	The Blitz
December 1941	The attack of Pearl Harbour caused the USA to enter WW2
September 1943	Italy surrendered to the Allies.
June 1944	D-Day (the Allied military operation to liberate France)
May 1945	Germany surrendered to the Allies.

Key Events, Facts and People

World War II involved many countries around the globe fighting against each other, including the UK. It lasted six years, from 1939-1945. The war had two sides: the Allies and the Axis powers. Great Britain was bombed heavily during the Blitz.

Children, mothers and helpers were evacuated from large towns and cities and moved to rural areas for safety. They were referred to as evacuees.

For some children, this was the first time they had ever been away from home or seen the countryside. Evacuees had to carry gas masks and Personal Identity Cards in case of an attack.



Key Vocabulary

Battle of Britain	The 1940 air battle between Germany and Britain for air supremacy.
The Blitz	An intensive military attack in which British cities and industrial areas were targeted by the Luftwaffe.
air raid	An attack by armed aeroplanes on a target.
propaganda	Information that is given out that may not be accurate but is intended to make people believe something or to hold a particular point of view.
evacuation	The moving of people from a dangerous place to a safer place
evacuee	A person who is evacuated.
appeasement	A policy of allowing a country to do what it wants, in an effort to avoid war.
bias	The favouring of a person or group in an unfair way.
accuracy	An assessment of whether a source is likely to be correct or complete.
reliability	An assessment of how trustworthy or accurate a source is likely to be.

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Key Questions

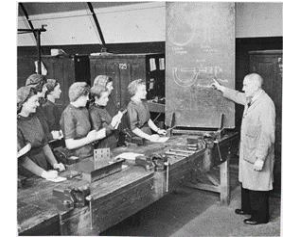
- Why did Britain go to war in 1939?
- Who won the Battle of Britain?
- What do sources tell us about the Blitz?
- What was evacuation like for children?
- What impact did World War 2 have on women's lives?
- Why did people migrate to Britain during and after World War 2?

Unit Outcomes

- ✓ Identify the causes of World War 2.
- ✓ Identify the different phases in the Battle of Britain.
- ✓ Make inferences and deductions about a photograph.
- ✓ Describe how children may have felt when evacuated.
- ✓ Evaluate the accuracy and reliability of sources.
- ✓ Describe the impact WW2 had on women's lives.

The war gave us

Before the war, most women stayed at home and didn't go out to work. Those who did work were not paid equally to men. When men were called up for active service, women were needed to do jobs to help their country during the war. Their experiences led them to stand up for equal working rights and pay so that they could carry on leading more independent lives.



Links to other Subjects

English - an information text about evacuation

English - writing inspired by the book 'Letters from the Lighthouse'.

ICT - creating an advertisement for evacuation

Music - listen and appraise music from World War Two

Reading - Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll

Evacuation

Evacuation took place in stages. When war was declared in September 1939, 1.5 million evacuees were sent to live in safer areas in the countryside. More followed when the Blitz began a year later and again in the middle of 1944 when Germany attacked the east and south-east of England.



The Blitz

Coming from the German word blitzkrieg ('lightning war'), the Blitz started in September 1940 when German bomber planes began targeting British cities and industrial areas - particularly London, Coventry, Manchester, Cardiff, Belfast and Clydebank.

