

Lesson ideas – London at War

Learning outcomes	Activities
<p>To be able to suggest reasons why some areas of a city were more likely to be bombed than others</p> <p>To develop an understanding of how the Blitz affected people's lives</p>	<p>Find out what the children already know about the Blitz. Explain that the term comes from the German <i>Blitzkrieg</i>, meaning 'lightening war'. Where do they think the Germans targeted their bombing campaign? Why? Look at a selection of images including the ARP shelter and the aftermath of bombing raids. How did people try to prepare for raids? Discuss Anderson and Morrison shelters. Children could draw pictures of these shelters.</p> <p>Children work in pairs. One has a photocopy of an image of the aftermath of a bombing raid. They must not show it to their partner. They need to describe the scene as accurately as possible and their partner draws what they told. Afterwards, discuss the differences between the different drawings and how the same scene can be interpreted in different ways.</p>
<p>To be able to describe some experiences and emotions felt by evacuees</p>	<p>Look at an enlarged image of evacuees on the whiteboard. The teacher introduces the photograph with background information about the evacuation program and emphasises that these children are of a similar age to the children in class. The teacher asks what can be found out from the photograph and models a couple of questions, e.g. How long has these children been staying here? Did they have to help on the farm? In pairs, the children think of 5 more questions they could ask about the photograph. These are fed back to the whole class and a list of enquiry questions is generated on this theme.</p>
<p>To develop an understanding of why rationing was necessary and how it affected people's everyday lives</p>	<p>Ask the children what they understand by the term 'rationing'. Why do they think Britain had to introduce rationing? What food do they think had to be rationed?</p> <p>Ask them to draw a cupboard full of the types of food they thought would be rationed and to estimate how much of each food type a family of four might be allowed.</p> <p>More information can be found at: http://www.historyonthenet.com/WW2/home_front.htm#Rationing</p> <p>Show them images of a ration book and the dried egg powder. What do they think the food would taste like? Ask them to find a wartime recipe and create a class WW2 recipe book.</p>