



A siren sounds, a building is crumbling and a Spitfire zooms overhead. Take cover! It is 1939 and Britain is at War! Imagine having to leave home for an unknown period of time and packing your belongings into a box no bigger than a shoe box. Think carefully about what you would need, as you take your belongings with you on the journey to a new city and new home.....

# Britain at War

## BRITAIN DECLARES WAR!

### History

Children will be looking at the major events surrounding the Second World War. They will be experiencing what life was like for families during the Second World War. In addition, they will be learning about the different cities where child evacuees were sent and what it was like for them going to school during this period. Using primary sources, they will also be learning about the London Blitz and the Battle of Britain.

### Geography

Children will research the different cities of the UK where child evacuees were sent and the main cities targeted by German air raids during the Second World War. In addition, they will look at the major ports and cities bombed during the Blitz on maps of the UK, considering why they were vulnerable to bombing.

### PSHE

Children will look at a range of propaganda posters used during the War and their impact on families at the time. We will also be looking at the qualities needed to become a good leader as we focus on images of world leaders at the time of War. Children will focus on what it was like for children evacuated during the War. We also be looking at the speech made by Princess Elizabeth to the children of the Commonwealth.

### Memorable experience

Children will visit the RAF Museum and experience what it was like in a classroom during World War 2!

### Science

Children will be studying the topic light this half term. Children will learn about the way that light behaves, travelling in straight lines from a source or reflector, into the eye. They explore phenomena associated with light, including shadows, reflections, rainbows and diffraction.

### Art/DT

Children will be finding and making popular wartime foods. They will also be looking at images of Anderson shelters and constructing their own. Children will also be making their own version of toys from the 1940s using scraps of wood, card, paper or fabric. We will be creating battle scenes using oil pastels and water colours. In addition, children will also be making an animated presentation of their learning using the web and their ICT skills.

### Literacy

The children will be studying the book "Rose Blanche". Writing diary entries in role as Rose. The children will explore the different feelings and thoughts people can have regarding a government's decision to go to war. Children will look at communities which supported the decision to go to War. They will also explore opposition to war and the concept of pacifism. The children will write letters to persuade the leaders not to go to war. Children will discuss Edmund Burke's quote: 'The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men and women to do nothing. Children will also compare different conflict poems. Children will analyse speeches delivered by different leaders.

### Maths

This half-term the children will be focusing on:

- Writing fractions as decimals
- Dividing decimals
- Multiplying decimals
- Multiplying and dividing a decimal by a 2-digit whole number
- Converting units of measurement for length, mass, volume and time
- Solving word problems using bar models
- Using mathematical reasoning to investigate and solve problems. Children will also recap on their mental maths strategies.

### PE

Children will be focussing on basketball this half-term. In addition, they will be taking part in various team-building exercises.



# HOME LEARNING

Keep a diary and record things that are happening in your life.

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 au-

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?

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 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?

## Books

The World Wars  
World War II (DK Eyewitness)  
The Second World War (Usborne History of Britain)  
Horrible Histories: Woeful Second World War  
Timeline of the Second World War  
Private Peaceful  
The Skylarks' War  
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas  
*Noor-un-Nissa Inayat Khan*  
Poems from the Second World War  
Archie's War  
Only Remembered  
When We Were Warriors  
Coming Home (My Story)  
Friend or Foe

Make a scrapbook of Second World War images and write captions for each one. Consider how the people in the photographs may be feeling.

Talk to friends or family about their wartime or post-war memories or experiences. Write down or record their responses.

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.

Record a wartime radio broadcast. If possible, use an audio editing package to add sound effects, such as air raid sirens or overhead aircraft.

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.