



The Big Question

How did life change for children in Britain during the Second World War?



Greatworth Primary School

Key Vocabulary

Allies	The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China.
Axis	The Axis Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.
conscripted	Required by law to serve their country in some way, usually in the armed forces.
dogfight	An intense, in-air, close-range battle between individual or small groups of aircraft.
commemorate	Mark or remember a past event.
home front	Doing things at home to support the war was called 'fighting on the home front '.
rationing	Only allowing people to have a certain amount of something.
evacuation	Taking people from a dangerous place to a safer one.



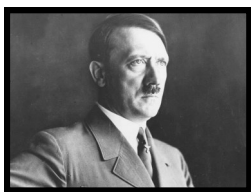
Allies

Great Britain, Russia (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), United States of America, France, China

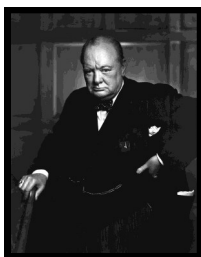
Axis

Nazi Germany, Italy, Japan

Key people:



Adolf Hitler



Winston Churchill

Key dates:

1939		1940			1944	1945		1954	
1st September		3rd September	8th January	10th May	7th September	6th June	7th and 8th May	15th August	4th July
German troops invade Poland	Operation Pied Piper begins and children begin to be evacuated from British cities	Britain and France declare War on Germany	Rationing begins	Winston Churchill becomes the Prime Minister	The Blitz begins	The D-Day landings	VE Day (Victory in Europe) as Germany surrenders	Japan surrenders and The Second World War ends	Rationing ends in Britain

Evacuation

During the war, German planes dropped bombs on British cities in an attempt to destroy factories, dockyards and airfields but homes and schools were also hit. The government decided to evacuate children from the cities, where they might be in danger, to the countryside where they would be safer. Children who were evacuated were called evacuees. They went to live with other families who looked after them until the war ended.



Gas masks had to be carried by everyone. There were even colourful gas masks for children!



The Blitz

The intense and sudden bombing of British cities was called the Blitz. Sirens were sounded in the streets to warn civilians that bombers were coming. To escape the bombs, people went into air raid shelters. Weeks of sustained bombing raids killed thousands of people and destroyed many homes and cities.

Air raid shelters

Many people built air raid shelters, called Anderson shelters, in their gardens. These were made from corrugated steel panels with soil spread over the top. Some people, who didn't have gardens, made a Morrison shelter inside their homes. This shelter looked like a steel table with wire mesh around the sides.

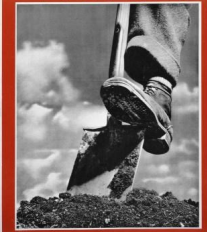


Rationing

During the war, there was a shortage of some foods because ships bringing food into Britain were at risk of sinking by German submarines. Rationing was introduced in 1940, which meant that each person could only buy fixed amounts of certain foods each week. Every person was issued with a ration book, and they had to hand over coupons from their ration book, as well as money, when they went shopping. Many foods were rationed, such as butter, bacon, sugar, meat, cheese and milk, but some were not, including potatoes and fish. People were encouraged to grow their own vegetables through the 'Dig for Victory' campaign.



DIG FOR VICTORY



A new job for Mum

With men away at war, women took on important jobs to help the war effort. Jobs included working in factories, engineering and shipbuilding, driving ambulances and nursing, working as Land Girls or air-raid wardens, or joining the armed forces themselves.



**LEAVE THIS TO US
SONNY — YOU OUGHT
TO BE OUT OF LONDON**

MINISTRY OF HEALTH EVACUATION SCHEME

Propaganda

Posters, radio, films and newspapers were used during the war to keep up people's spirits, celebrate Allied victories and make fun of the enemy. This was called propaganda. Propaganda was also used to persuade people to do what the government wanted, such as carry a gas mask, grow vegetables, make or mend clothes and evacuate children from the cities to the countryside.

Your own vegetables
all the year round...



if you

**DIG FOR
VICTORY NOW**