

CHILDREN IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR



History, Literacy and Remembrance



Key Stage 2



Session One
2 – 4 hours

In this session you will learn how the Second World War impacted on children's lives around the world. Follow these activities to learn about children who were evacuated in Britain and how the war changed children's lives in other countries.

First, watch a virtual tour of the Arboretum.

Tour of the Arboretum
<https://youtu.be/KgJHjog38is>

You have a short film to watch. This will take you to look at the National Memorial to the Evacuation: Every Which Way at the National Memorial Arboretum.



*National Memorial to the
Evacuation: Every Which Way* →

Here are some questions for you to answer after watching the film.

What places in Britain did the government think that Nazi Germany would attack by air?

Tick the correct answers – there are three.

- Cities
- Villages
- Factories
- Farms
- Docks
- Shops

Who were the people the government wanted to move to safety?

Tick the correct answers – there are three.

- Vulnerable people
- Pets
- Children
- Pregnant women
- Soldiers
- The King

Can you name two things an evacuee would take with them?

Where was the artist Maurice Blik born?

Tick the correct answer.

- America
- Amsterdam
- Belgium
- Liverpool
- Norfolk

10,000 Jewish children escaped their home countries and came to Britain. What was the name of the mission they came with?

- Niños-transport
- Kindertransport
- Les-enfants-transport

The Second World War

The Second World War took place between 1939 and 1945 between two groups of countries. One group was called the Allies and included Britain, France, Poland, the Soviet Union, the United States of America and Commonwealth countries such as pre-partition India and Canada. The other was called the Axis Powers and included Nazi Germany, Italy and Japan.

The Second World War began in Europe on 1 September 1939 when Germany invaded Poland.

In Europe, the war ended on 8 May 1945, when Nazi Germany surrendered on a day known as Victory in Europe Day (VE Day). The war against Japan took place in the Far East and ended three months later on 15 August 1945. This brought an end to the fighting and is known as Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day).

Family Life in the Second World War

Family life was affected by the war. All men aged between 18 and 41 had to join the British Army, Royal Navy or Royal Air Force unless they did important jobs such as mining, farming or teaching or were exempt on medical grounds. This was called conscription and meant that many fathers or siblings had to go to war. Meanwhile, many women took up new jobs to help the war effort, such as working in factories or on farms.

There were many other changes as well. Rationing was introduced, meaning that people were only allowed a small amount of certain foods to make sure that the country would not run out of food. In large towns and cities, the lights had to be turned off at night and windows covered to stop any light spilling out. This was called a blackout and was done to protect cities from bombs.

When did the Second World War begin?

Name two countries that were Allied countries.

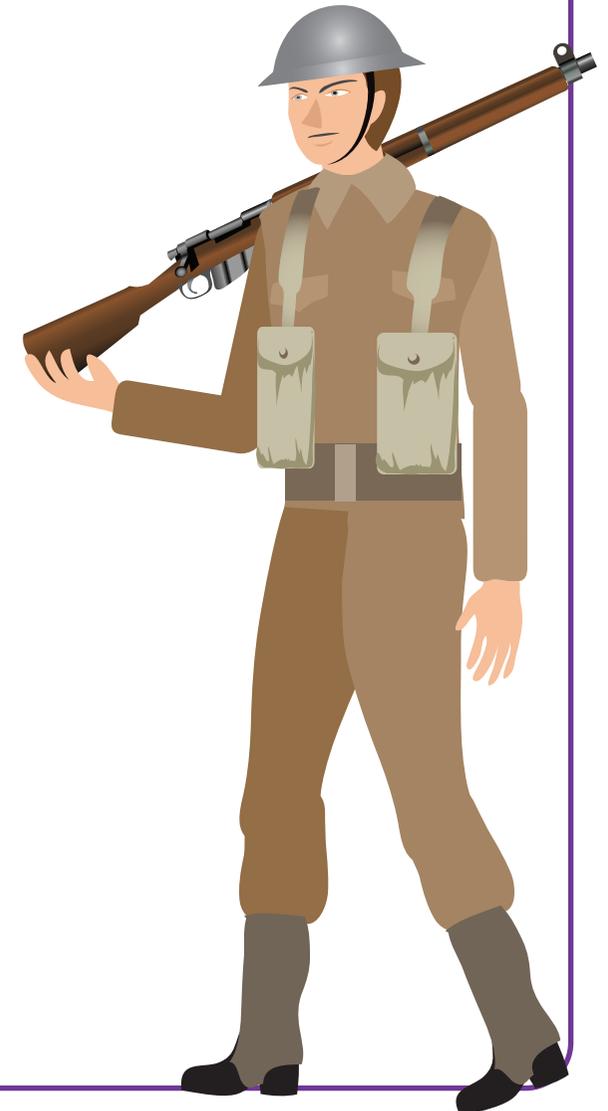
As well as Nazi Germany, name two other countries that were Axis Powers.

What date did the Second World War end in Europe? What is this day called?

What day did the fighting end in the Far East? What is this day called?

How old were the men that were called to join the British Armed Forces?

Some men did not have to go to war because the jobs they did were important. Name two of the jobs that were exempt.



Vocabulary mix-and-match

Look at the sentences below. Some words have been made **bold**. What do these words mean?
Match the sentences on the left with what they mean on the right.

The **sculpture** looks like a group of children waiting for a bus or a train.

10,000 Jewish children escaped from their home countries and came to Britain as part of **Kindertransport**.

Britain was one of the **Allied countries**.

Nazi Germany was one of the **Axis Powers** in the Second World War.

The Government introduced **conscription**.

The British Government was worried people would be bombed by Nazi German airplanes, so they organised an **evacuation**.

Vulnerable people moved so they were safe.

Evacuation was **not compulsory**.

When something does not have to be done.

This is when the Government made men join the armed forces to fight in the Second World War.

These are the countries that fought against Britain and the other Allied countries in the Second World War.

This means, children's transport. It was the name of some rescues that brought Jewish children to Britain between 1930 and 1940.

These are the countries that fought against Nazi Germany, Italy, and Japan in the Second World War.

A piece of art that is carved or molded and is normally made from a hard material such as stone, clay or metal.

People that may be hurt or harmed.

This is when you have to leave somewhere quickly to avoid harm.

