



The BIG Question:

What was life like for children in World War II ?



Introduction

Our cross-curricular topic this term is history-focused and looks to commemorate the 80th anniversary of evacuation at the start of WWII. We will start by thinking about our local area and what life was like during the 1930s and 1940s. We will study the book and film 'Carrie's War' by Nina Bawden. We will also be using the book in guided reading sessions. We will undertake a variety of activities which will enable us to understand what life was like for children during World War II. We will dress up as evacuees and to take part in a special WWII day towards the end of term. We will carry out our own independent research on an aspect of life in wartime, sharing our findings with the rest of the class. We are very much looking forward to using The Space in our studies and we are building an artefacts box to assist with this. We will also be using the new school kitchen and garden to try out some wartime recipes. In art we will be exploring the work of Henry Moore, LS Lowry and the war artists through the use of pencil, clay and collage. In design and technology we will be making evacuee teddy bears to bring home. In computing, we will be looking at how work at Bletchley Park made code cracking a crucial part in the Allied victory.

Books we will share

Carrie's War by Nina Bawden

My Secret War Diary by Marcia Williams

Letters to the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll

The Story of the Second World War for Children by Peter Chrisp

Also recommended from our class library

Goodnight Mr Tom by Michelle Magorian

Blitz Cat by Robert Westall

Hitler's Canary by Sandi Toksvig

The Lion and the Unicorn by Shirley Hughes

A Medal for Leroy by Michael Morpurgo

Some of our Super Skills

Hi42 Devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference and investigate to find possible answers

Hi44 Recognise that the past is represented and interpreted in different ways and give reasons for this

Hi45 Recognise and understand the broad chronology of major events in the UK.

Hi48 Select and combine information from different sources

Hi49 Recall, select, organise and communicate historical information in a variety of ways

Ar87 Drawing : Manipulate and experiment with the elements of art: line, tone, pattern, texture, form, space, colour and shape.

Ar88 Painting : Carry out preliminary studies, test media and materials and mix appropriate colours

Ar89 Painting Work from a variety of sources, including some researched independently

Ar91 Investigate, explore and record information about famous artists showing appreciation of aesthetic qualities

Ar97 Painting Choose appropriate paint, paper and implements to adapt and extend our work

Dt 44 Explore alternative ways of making their product, if first attempts fail

Dt45 Check work as it develops and modify as necessary

Dt50 Choose how to communicate design ideas as they develop, considering use and purpose

Dt51 Select from a wide range of tools and equipment to perform practical tasks accurately

C5 Solve problems by decomposing them into smaller parts

C7 Work with variables and various forms of input and output

Our Community and Beyond

We will find out what our local community was like during 1930s.

We will study first hand accounts of evacuation through film, audio recordings and interviews.

We will explore evacuation in the Surrey area.

We will look at the impact of wartime industry on our locality (engines, bus and aeroplane parts all manufactured locally).

We will find out about London during the Blitz.

We will consider what life would have been like for Carrie and Nick in South Wales.

We will find out how our community adapted to peacetime.

Content and Vocabulary

- The **evacuation** of children from cities to the countryside in order to keep them safe from **air raids** began in **September 1939**.
- The British **Government** had been planning mass evacuation for some time before the war started. The project was called '**Operation Pied Piper**'
- Many of London's children were sent to Wales, Cornwall or Devon. Children were also evacuated to other **rural areas**, such as East Anglia.
- The children who were evacuated were known as **evacuees** and the families they stayed with in the countryside were called **host families**.
- They were placed with new families by a **billeting officer**.
- Several thousand children were evacuated overseas to Canada, Australia and the United States.
- The children travelled on special trains from the city to their host families. Many were too young to understand exactly what was happening; many thought they were going on a holiday. Most of the evacuees were sad to say goodbye to their parents and homes.
- Children had to carry a **gas mask** and they had food for the journey to the countryside. Every child had a **label** pinned to their clothing. This label stated the child's name, home address, school and **destination**.
- Food was **rationed** children had to adapt to new ways of eating, sometimes for the better!
- Although some evacuees didn't enjoy evacuation, many of the children adapted well to country life. They became friends with local children and stayed in touch with their host family after the end of the war.
- It wasn't just children who were evacuated. Mothers of very young children, pregnant women, disabled people and some teachers were evacuated.
- Efforts were made to keep evacuated siblings together, but this wasn't always possible.
- Evacuees and their parents would keep in touch by writing letters to each other.
- Many of the children who were evacuated in 1939 returned home by 1940 because Britain wasn't heavily bombed by the Germans in the first months of WW2.
- When **The Blitz** began children were sent back to the countryside.
- War had an **impact** on almost every aspect of daily life and the **aftermath** of war was felt for many years.

Some Key Events

1 Sep, 1939 – Germany invades Poland - WWII begins

Apr-Jun 1940 – Germany invades Denmark and Norway

May-Jun 1940 – Germany takes over most of Western Europe

Jul-Oct 1941 – The Battle of Britain

7-8 Dec 1941 – Japan attack US. US joins Allies

6 June 1944 – D-Day – Allied forces invade Normandy

25 Aug 1944 – Paris liberated from German control

7 May 1945 – Germany surrenders

8th May 1945 – Victory in Europe (VE Day)

Aug 1945 – US bombs Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan

15th August 1945 – Victory in Japan (VJ Day)

2 Sep 1945 – WWII is over.

My Magic Moments