

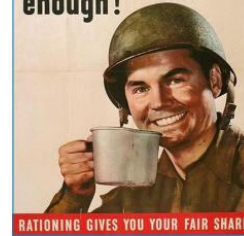
History: Britain during World War Two

Key Vocabulary

air raids	An attack by enemy planes dropping bombs.
blackout	A wartime ban on streetlights and other lights at night, to reduce the risk of bombing by enemy planes.
the Blitz	A prolonged period of German air raids on Britain. From the German word 'blitzkrieg' meaning 'lightning war'.
civilian	Non-military person.
evacuation	Moving people from dangerous areas to safer places
evacuee	A person who is evacuated.
propaganda	Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.
rationing	Controlling the supply of food, clothes, petrol and other products to avoid or reduce shortages.

Propaganda

Do with less—
so they'll have
enough!



Propaganda posters would often contain a short, catchy slogan written in large, bold letters. They would also contain an image that is particularly memorable, or one that is designed to make people scared. Propaganda was an important tool for stopping panic and rumours from breaking out, however, these posters have been criticised in the modern era for using scare-tactics and guilt-trips to keep people under control.



Rationing

Supply ships were targeted by German bombers and it was necessary to conserve as much food as possible. Rationing meant that each person was only allowed a fixed amount of foods. Ration books were issued, with coupons that showed people how much of each item they were allowed. Shopkeepers would remove or stamp the coupons when they were used. People were also encouraged to 'Dig for Victory' and grow as much of their own food as possible. Petrol, soap, clothing and timber were also in short supply. Clothing ration books were issued and people were encouraged to 'make do and mend'.



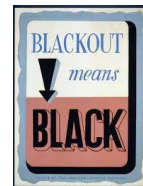
The Blitz

The heavy and frequent bombing attacks on London and other cities was known as the 'Blitz'. Night after night, from September 1940 until May 1941, German bombers attacked British cities, ports and industrial areas. London was bombed every day and night, bar one, for 11 weeks. One third of London was destroyed.

Most **air raids** happened at night.

Staying safe during air raids

- Shelters e.g. Anderson shelter (outdoors) and Morrison shelter (indoors)
- Gas masks
- Blackout
- Air raid siren



Evacuation

During World War II, over 3.5 million children, along with some of their teachers and helpers, mothers with very young children, pregnant women were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. All **evacuees** had to take their gas mask, **ration** book and identity card. When they reached their destination, a billeting officer would arrange a host family for them. Evacuation happened in waves, beginning on 1st September 1939. Other waves occurred at the start of the Battle of Britain and at the start of the **Blitz**.

