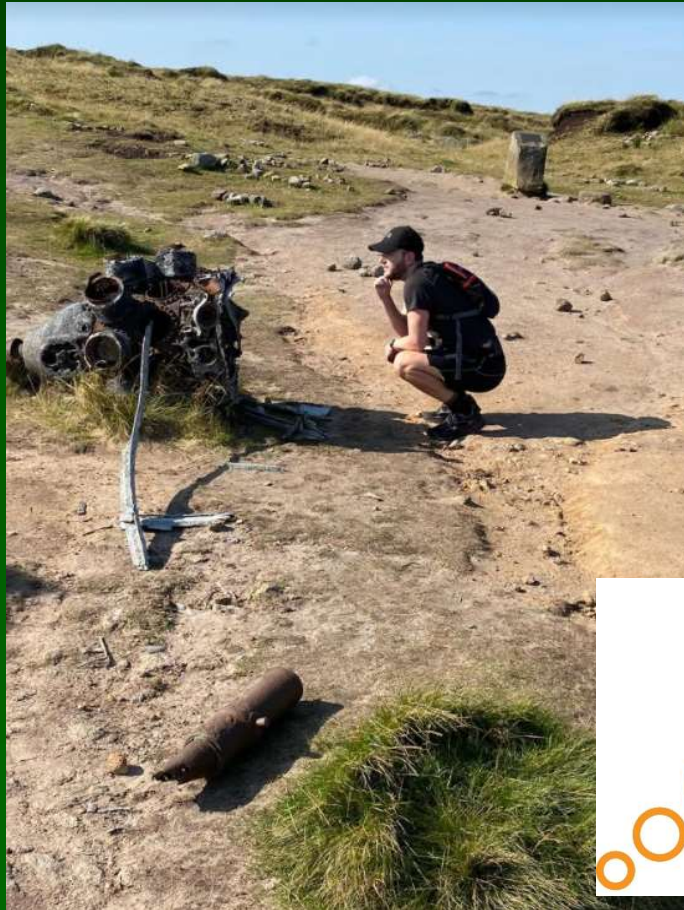


# LO: Can I find out about WW2 evacuees? (Floor book)



Can you work  
out what's  
going on here?







# Children Evacuees in World War II

When **Britain** announced it was at **war** with **Germany** in **1939** the British Government knew that **Germany** would **attack** Britain with **bomber planes**. So they **ordered** that **mothers and children** who lived in cities **had to leave** the cities and go to **live with other people**, people not known to them, **in the countryside**.

They were to be **EVACUATED** to the **safety** of **Rural** areas of Britain.



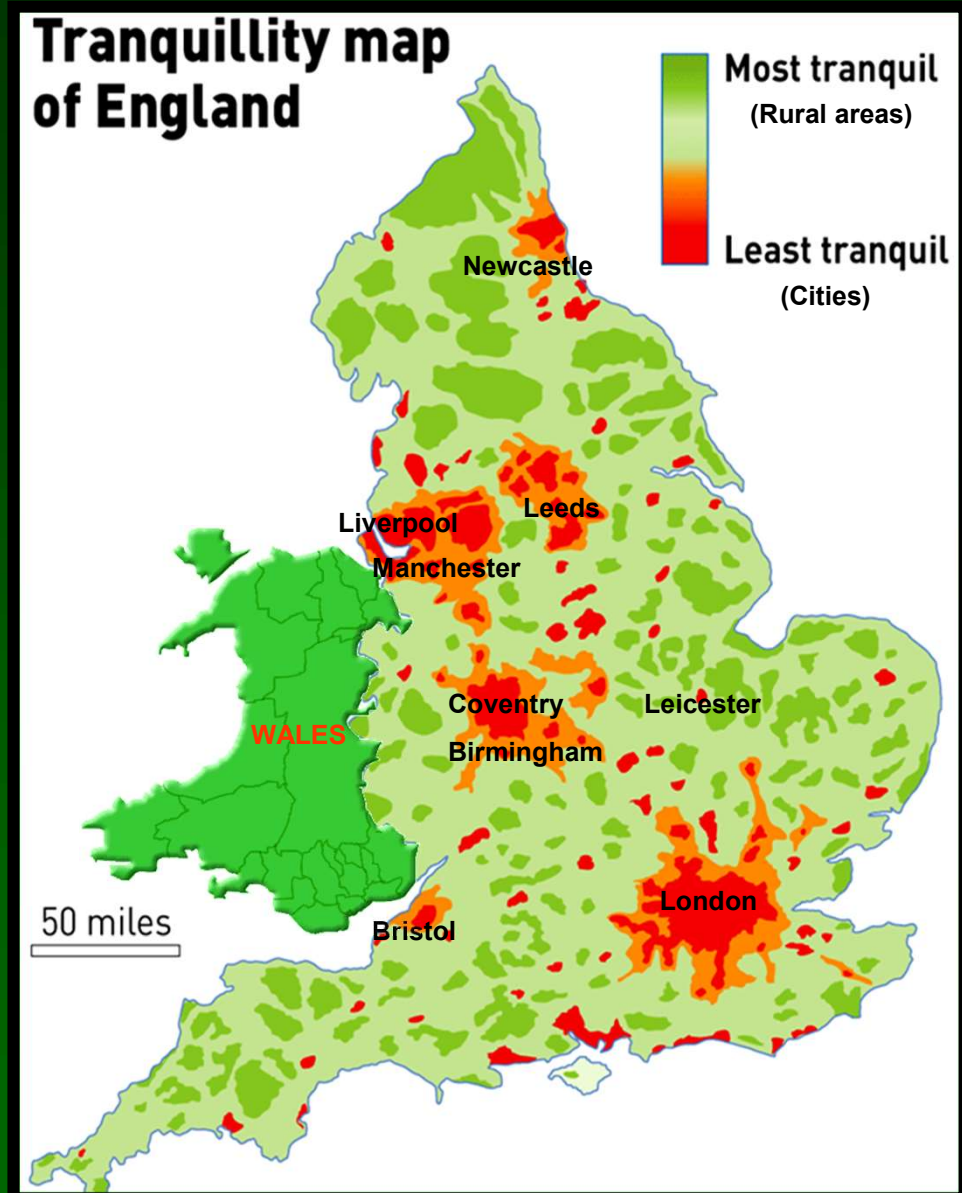


Towns and villages in the countryside (Rural and Farming areas) would not be targeted by German bomber planes as much as the cities – so children would be much safer living in the rural areas.

The areas in red on the map show the areas the German bombers would target the most.

The areas in green on the map show the rural countryside areas where people would be safer from bombing raids.

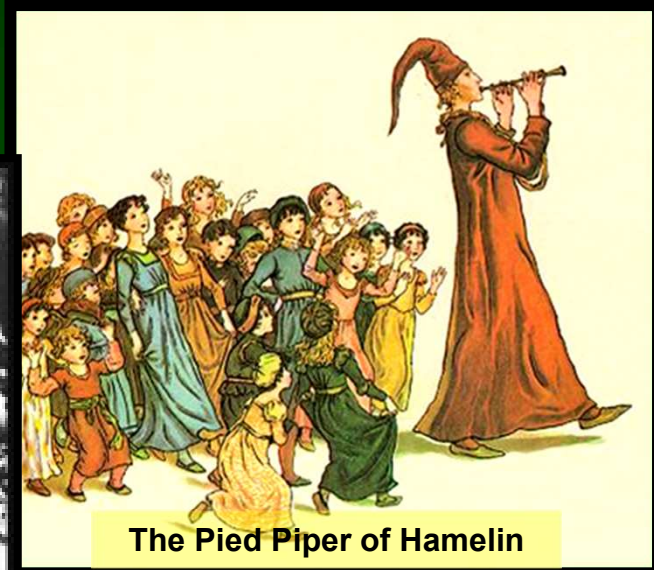
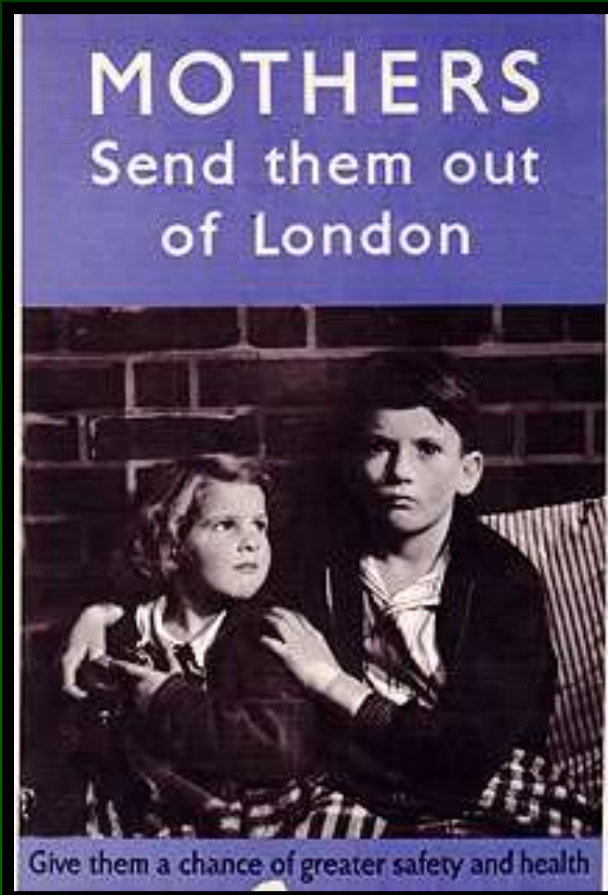
Mothers and children were evacuated to green areas.



In **1939** more than **3.1 million (3,100,000) children** were **evacuated** from the main British cities including **London**.

The plan to evacuate them was called **Operation Pied Piper**, after the German folktale about a magical musician who lured all the children of a town away with his musical pipe, and the children were never seen again.

The evacuation of city children happened very quickly.





Families were told the **children** were only **allowed** to have **one suitcase** with them. In that suitcase they had to have:

the **clothes** they would need,  
their **Identity Card**,  
their **Ration book**,  
their **Gas Mask**,  
some **money**, and a few **small toys**.

Everything had to fit in the one suitcase and the children had to keep the suitcase with them all the time they were **travelling to their rural area**.



But the **Evacuation** happened so **quickly** that some children **did not know** where they were being sent to.

Many **children** had **never** been **separated** from their **parents** and family **before**.

Many **children's parents** had to **stay** in the **cities** to work and so the children were evacuated on their own.

**Imagine** how it must **feel** to be told you were **leaving your parents**, you were **going somewhere strange**, you would be **living in strangers' houses with them**, and that **you might not see your parents for up to a year**.



Look at the children in this picture.

They are being evacuated. Their mothers are saying 'Goodbye' to them at the railway station.

The children are about to travel on a train to a rural area to live with strangers. How do you think they must feel?



What can you see in these pictures?

What do you think the children have around their necks? **What are they for?**

What do you think are in the boxes hanging from their shoulders?

How do they look? How do think they are feeling about being evacuated?

Evacuation





When **children** arrived at the **rural area** there were always lots of **adults waiting**. The **adults** would **pick the children** they wanted to come and **live with them**. Many children had to **wait a long time** until they were picked by an **adult**. Sometimes children would wait while all the other children were picked. **Brothers and sisters** would be picked **together mostly**, but there were times when **brothers and sisters** had to be **split up** and go to **live with different families**. They might **not see each other** again for **more than a year**.





Some **children** were **lucky** and got to live with **families** who were **kind** to them and lived in **well furnished houses** with bathrooms and **toilets inside**.  
Some children were **not** so **lucky** and had to live in **small cramped houses** with no bathroom and only an **outside toilet**, and the people **did not treat them** in a **loving way**, like their own family.



*What do you notice about these houses that is different to our homes today?*



These photos show parts of a **wartime house** that an **evacuee** may have lived in with their **host family**.

*What do you notice about the inside of this house?*

*Can you identify any of the unusual objects?*

*(click to reveal the names of items)*





Many **children** had **never been** into the **countryside** before. They were **shocked** and **excited** at the **huge areas of rural and farming land**. City children often **wrote letters** to their parents **describing seeing animals** such as **cows** and **sheep** for the **first time**.



*What sights, smells and sounds do you think would be new to these evacuees?*



"Dear mother

I was sad to leave you at the station. We saw a meadow of horses. While the sun went down a nice lady told me where to go when we arrived there Then I got picked .Then we arrived at a farm. mrs sharp told me where my room was she asked if I wanted a drink farm. My new school is ve new frends my safe in the w All my love E



"Dear Mum,

It was so sad to see you stay. The journey was awful, Alice wet herself and she was sick all over me, But we saw cows in a field, it was fascinating. We were taken to the village hall where we were picked by adults, luckily me and Alice stayed together in the same house. We were picked by Mr and Mrs Kinsman, they're really strict. At school Mr Kinsman's my teacher, I have to spend a whole day with him. Alice's teacher is really nice he's called Mr Clark. I ruined my shoes in the pigs' pen and when Mr Kinsman found out he went bonkers.

We'll write back as soon as possible  
Edna" (aged 10)





Many evacuee **children** went to **live on farms**.

As well as going to school they had to **help the farmers** look after the farm animals and the fields.

Many **city children** had the opportunity to do things they would **never have** been able to do **in the city**, such as:

- Feed, clean and ride horses
- Feed and milk cows
- Feed and clean pigs
- Feed chickens and collect their eggs



Evacuee **children** would work in the **farmers' fields before school, after school and at weekends and holidays.** All year round they helped **dig up potatoes, carrots, onions, cabbage, and turnips.** In **summer** they would **pick** fruit from the farmers' fruit trees; **apples, pears, plums and cherries.** In **autumn** the children would help **pick blackberries.**



Picking plums



Picking blackberries



Picking cabbages



Digging up potatoes



All these **vegetables** and **fruits** that Evacuee Children were helping to **grow in farmers' fields, in back gardens, on pieces of waste ground**, were essential in helping the whole country of **Britain cope with the strict food shortages** that had started in 1940.

From **1940** the British Government had to **RATION FOOD**,  
And **Rationing did not stop** in Britain **until 1953**.

# RATIONING



R.B.1  
15  
MINISTRY OF  
FOOD  
1952-1953  
**RATION BOOK**  
(GENERAL)

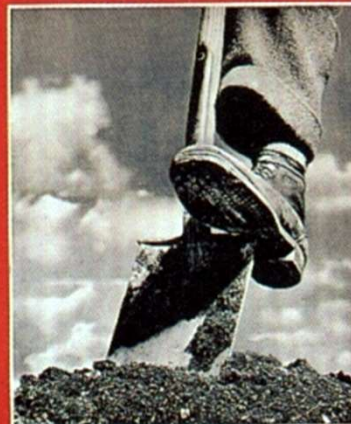
Surname *Dodgson* Initials *S.I.*  
Address *11A Annela Road.*  
*Felixstowe*  
*Suffolk.*

IF FOUND  
RETURN TO  
ANY FOOD OFFICE

N. R. M.F.

FOOD OFFICE  
CODE No.  
E - F  
1 - 4

**DIG FOR  
VICTORY**



# Your activity

- **Red/Amber** – complete your poster using pictures
- **Green** – complete your poster by tracing/drawing
- **Extension activity** – complete comprehension