

Clitheroe Brookside Primary School

Topic: The Blitz

History

Aims: To understand what the Blitz was, how it affected different groups of people and how it compared to other conflicts throughout history.

What should I already know about the Blitz and World War 2?

Know where World war 2 comes in a timeline of historical events. Know that the war affected many people and places were destroyed and rebuilt. Know that we have had no world war since this although there have been other conflicts since.

What will I know by the end of this unit?

Vocabulary

What is the Blitz?

The heavy and frequent bombing attacks on London and other cities was known as the 'Blitz'.

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 and people with disabilities, 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.

WOMEN

Before the war, most women stayed at home and didn't go out to work. Those who did work were paid less than men and were generally restricted to 'women's jobs', such as nursing or working as a shop assistant. However, when men were called up for active service, women were needed to do jobs such as making weapons, driving buses and trains or working in engineering or shipbuilding. Some joined the armed forces themselves. After the war, many women lost their jobs. However, their experiences led them to campaign for equal working rights and pay so that they could carry on leading more independent lives.

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.

Enemy	A person or group who is actively opposed or hostile to someone or something.
Raid	A rapid surprise attack on an enemy.
Sirens	A device that makes a loud, prolonged signal or warning sound.
Shelters	A place giving temporary protection from the enemy attack.
Rationing	Allowing someone or people to only have a fixed amount of something.
Evacuated	Removal from a place of danger to a safer place
Doodle Bugs	A bomb with wings with no pilot and made a droning noise.
V2	Arrived without warning. Flown high in the air- too high to be shot down.
Allies	Countries included- UK, France, Poland, USSR, USA and China.
Axis	Originally Germany, Japan and Italy
Redsands Fort	A group of anti- aircraft platforms off the Kent coast
Propaganda	Information to promote a political idea or opinion



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