



History focus

Did WWI or WWII have the biggest impact on our locality?

Year 6

Autumn Term

Key Knowledge

First World War

In March 1916, **conscription** was introduced in Britain, as there were no longer enough volunteers wishing to **enlist**. All fit men between the ages of 19 and 41 were **conscripted** (raised to 51 in April 1918).

Between 1915 and 1919, competitive football was suspended. To fill this place, women began to form football teams. They became very successful, but in 1921, women's football was banned by the FA.

There were food shortages and **rationing** in both world wars. A great deal of food was imported, and the attacks on ships had a huge impact on this trade. Steps were taken to grow more food. In 1917, the Women's Land Army was formed. **Rationing** was introduced in February 1918.

Before the First World War, the popular view was that a woman's place was in the home, and they would only work if it were a financial necessity. During the Wars, women found work in such areas as making military weaponry (**munitions**).

Coastal towns were very vulnerable to attacks by enemy shells fired from offshore.

You may find different dates for the First World War on a memorial. Some end dates are 1918 when the **armistice** was signed, some 1919 when the peace treaties were signed and some are 1920, as some soldiers still served overseas until that date.

Second World War

The Second World War was the first total war, involving everyone in many countries. It began in 1939 when Germany invaded Poland, and gradually every major country of the world became drawn in.

Men were **conscripted** from the start of war. There were many changes over the years about who would be **conscripted**, and in 1942, women between the ages of 20 and 30 were also **conscripted**.

At school, children had to prepare for gas attacks. Many were also members of youth organisations like the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.

In September 1939, around 3 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 were **evacuated** if they lived in areas which were a potential target for bombing.

Rationing began in January 1940. **Rationing** did not end with the end of the Second World War, but continued until 1954. The price of foods went up in both wars, doubling or even tripling. 'Make do and mend' was the campaign to repair rather than replace clothing.

Due to anxiety about air attacks, **air raid** precaution wardens served in the Second World War, and would check that **blackouts** were in place.

In 1939, all organised football apart from that by the armed forces was suspended. Regardless, many factories set up all-female teams.

Attacks from the air were much more of a threat in the Second World War.

Key Vocabulary

allies

The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China.

axis

Originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.

Nazi party

A German political party with racist and anti-Jewish ideas, led by Adolf Hitler.

propaganda

Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion.

conscripted

Required by law to serve their country in some way, usually in the armed forces.

enlist

To be signed up to the armed forces.

commemorate

Mark or remember a past event.

home front

Doing things at home to support the war was called 'fighting on the home front'.

rationing

Only allowing people to have a certain amount of something.

evacuation

Taking people from a dangerous place to a safer one.

munitions

Military weaponry.

armistice

An agreement to discuss peace.

blackout

All windows had to be covered up at night to ensure that no light could escape to aid enemy bombers to find their targets. Street lamps were also switched off and car headlights covered except for a narrow slit.

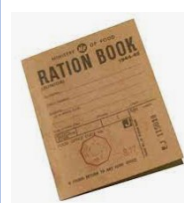
air raid

an attack by armed airplanes, usually notified by a siren.

memorial

a statue or structure established to remind people of a person or event.

Artefacts



Trips

Visit to Tatton Park for WW2 Evacuee Workshops

