

EVACUATION IN WORLD WAR TWO **TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCE**

AIMS:

This teaching and learning resource aims to give pupils insight into the impact of the Second World War on the lives of men, women and children in Britain and introduce different sources of information to help them investigate the subject of evacuation. It aims to provide an overview of the key facts, as well as more detailed information regarding the personal experience of this policy/programme. The resources can be used individually or combined to provide stimulus for learning about British History, English/Literacy development and PSHE skills 'to reflect on spiritual, moral, social, and cultural issues, using imagination to understand other people's experiences'.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After successful engagement with this teaching and learning resource, Key Stage 2 pupils will be able to:

- Study the impact of the Second World War on the lives of men, women and children from different sections of society.
- Use different sources of information to help them investigate the subject of evacuation.
- Learn about dates and historical vocabulary to describe the events, people and developments surrounding evacuation.
- Learn that evacuation can be represented and interpreted in different ways and give reasons for this.
- Gain skills and understanding in placing the events into correct periods of time.
- Gain knowledge and understanding of some of the attitudes and experiences of men, women and children during the Second World War.
- Identify and describe reasons for, and results of, evacuation during WWII.
- Ask and answer questions, and select and record information relevant to the focus of British evacuation between 1939-1945.

OUTLINE:

Evacuation in Britain at the beginning of World War Two was organised in anticipation of enemy air raid attacks on towns and cities. The evacuation programme concerned the movement of around 1.5 million children, teachers, mothers and other vulnerable people from urban areas to areas identified as 'places of greater safety'. There were several waves of evacuation in response to developments throughout the war, the official end being in 1946. This resource considers the reasons for, and results of, evacuation during WWII. It uses contemporary visual and audio primary sources and in addition, this resource uses retrospective memories to consider the real experiences of evacuees, enabling pupils to gain some

understanding of the social impact a policy like evacuation was to have on British society.

SOURCES:

Evacuation Powerpoint Presentation

Creative Writing Activity 1, *Memories of Evacuation, The Journey.*

Creative Writing Activity 2, *Memories of Evacuation, The Stay.*

Comprehension Worksheet 1, (Greater Difficulty)

Comprehension Worksheet 2, (Lesser Difficulty)

Evacuation from the town to countryside storyboard.

ACTIVITIES:

- *Evacuation* Powerpoint Presentation, with teacher's notes, introducing the key facts and chronology of evacuation within Britain during the Second World War. This presentation introduces students to primary sources, oral testimony and audio sources relating to evacuation.
- *Evacuation* Worksheet (higher ability); used in conjunction with the Powerpoint presentation this worksheet helps pupils to consolidate their learning with a comprehension exercise of key facts and vocabulary.
- *Evacuation* Worksheet (lower ability); as above.
- *Evacuation* Storyboard; for use in conjunction with the Powerpoint presentation for pupils to communicate their learning through drawing and writing.
- *Evacuation* Source Creative Writing Activity; pupils are given three source extracts of former evacuees' memories of their experiences to read. Using their imagination and with some prompt questions, pupils will write to their families back home, describing their evacuation journey, their feelings and expectations. This activity is an opportunity for the pupils to imagine/evaluate the impact of evacuation on a large proportion of British society during and after the Second World War.

FURTHER READING/VIEWING:

Goodnight Mister Tom, Dir. Jack Gold, (2010) (DVD)

Bawden, Nina, (1974) *Carrie's War*, Puffin Books (Fiction)

Donaldson, Julia (2004), *Bombs and Blackberries: A World War Two Play*, Wayland (an illustrated play for KS2)

Gardiner, Julia, (2005) *The Children's War: The Second World War through the eyes of the children of Britain*, Portrait (in conjunction with the Imperial War Museum)