

Evacuee Letter

Imagine you are an evacuee from the city, who has just been billeted with a family in the countryside. Write a letter home to your parents describing your experience so far.

Use this structure to plan your letter.

Paragraph 1 - **Introduction** (explain why you are writing)

Paragraph 2 - **The journey** (How did you travel? Where did you travel?)

Paragraph 3 - **The billeting process** (being placed with a family)

Paragraph 4 - **Your new home and family** (How are they different from what you are used to?)

Paragraph 5 - **Emotions** (How are you feeling/what do you miss about London/ What are you worried about / What are you looking forward to?)

Draw an evacuee

Sketch an evacuee who is having to leave London. Think about their facial expression. You can include thought and speech bubbles too.



On your drawing can you include and label this important things:

- Suitcase
- Gas mask
- Name tag
- Suitcase

Design a poster

Use bullet points and clear text to display your research.

Don't forget you can create your poster on paper or a computer.

Newspaper Report

A newspaper report should include:

- Headline
- Subtitle
- Date the report was written (You could use 9th May 1945 which would have been the day after VE day)
- Reporters name
- An introduction - Who What Where When Why How
- Information about the main event in chronological order
- Picture with a caption (you can draw a picture of VE day)
- Written in 3rd person and past tense
- A conclusion to summarise what happened. Or explain what might happen next.

Crack the code

During wartime, servicemen were often not allowed to tell their families where they were stationed. Some of them managed to get around that rule by writing letters containing coded messages.

Can you crack the code and work out where this soldier is stationed?

Can you write your own secret message to your family or friends?

Dear Mabel,
Sorry not to have written before but this war is keeping us all very busy.
Charlie Jones arrived here today so I have a friend from the old days to talk to.
Obviously he sends his love to you and all the family.
The food here is not too bad but nothing like the roast beef that you used to cook every Sunday.
Last night, we had corned beef for supper followed by lumping pudding.
As for any luxury - there isn't any.
Nine of us sleep in our billet, the snoring is very loud and it can be hard to get a good night's rest.
Did you get enough coupons to get young Harry his school uniform?

Lots of love to you all, miss you dreadfully.

Billy

All about WW II

- The Second World War took place between 1939 and 1945.
- World War II began on the 3rd of September 1939, when Britain declared that it was at war with Germany. Two days earlier, Germany had invaded Poland.

Who Fought in the war?

The two main sides fighting against each other were the **Axis** powers and the **Allies**. The Axis powers included Germany, Italy and Japan. The Allies included Britain, France, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, India, the Soviet Union, China and the United States of America. Some countries choose not to fight in the Second World War and did not take sides. These included Spain, Switzerland, Sweden and Ireland (although Irish troops did volunteer and serve in the British army).

The effects of the war

- Young men were called up to fight in the **armed services**. Millions of soldiers and ordinary **civilians** died as a result of the war.
- Millions of people were called on to produce weapons in factories.
- From 1941 unmarried women were "called up" and either had to join the armed forces to work on farms (the Women's Land Army) or work in factories to support the war effort. Previously these jobs would have been done by men only.
- The war saw the development of new, powerful and dangerous weapons. Tanks, submarines, **fighter planes** and bombing planes were all developed. World War II also saw the development of the most deadly weapon ever built, the **atomic bomb**.
- Large numbers of people were **evacuated** from the big cities to the countryside because of the many **air raids** and bombs.
- Food was **rationed** during the war because supplies were low and it could no longer be **imported**.
- War time letters were often sent in secret code.
- It is believed that about 60,000,000 people died during World War II. Around 40,000,000 of these were civilians.

Evacuation

During World War II, around 800,000 children were evacuated from major British cities to protect them from air raids. Most went to live in the countryside, but some were sent overseas. Evacuees were sent on their journey with a small bag of essentials (including a gas mask) and a label pinned to them, stating who they were and where they were going.

Air Raids and The Blitz

During the Blitz (September 1940 - May 1941) many public buildings were used as air raid shelters, including London Underground stations and parts of Cardiff castle. The British government ordered a blackout at night so that German bombers could not be helped by lights on the ground. The street lamps were switched off and people had to cover their windows with thick black material.

Rationing

Food rationing began in 1940, because the war meant Britain had to cut the amount of food that was bought from other countries. It started as limitations on butter, bacon and sugar. Over the course of the war, other items were added to the rationing list and the amounts available varied. Some foods (for example meat) were still rationed after the war until as late as 1954.

Can you answer these questions in full sentence?

1. When did rationing begin and why?
2. What were the different types of ration books? Why were there different types?
3. Who was Lord Woolton and did people like him? Why/why not?
4. Why do you think people were healthier during the war?
5. How were people encouraged to help during food shortages?
6. What other items were rationed during the war and why?
7. Why do you think children got extra clothing coupons?
7. Why did rationing continue after the war had ended?



Food rationing began in Britain in January 1940, starting with limitations on butter, bacon and sugar. Over the course of the war, other items were added to the rationing list and quantities available varied depending on availability.

Ration Books

In order to ensure that everybody got their fair share of available foods, ration books were issued to everybody.

There were three types of ration books that each had slightly different allowances:

- a buff book for adults;
- a blue book for children aged five to sixteen – children got extra eggs and milk but half the allowance of meat;
- a green book for children under five and pregnant or nursing mothers, who also got extra eggs and milk and the first pick of any fruit.

Coupons in the ration books showed people how much of each item they were allowed and the shopkeepers would remove or stamp the coupons when they were used.

Everybody had to register with certain shops where they could go each week to purchase their allowance. As there were no large supermarkets in Britain during the war, people had to travel to different shops to purchase their goods, e.g. the baker for bread and greengrocer for vegetables. Often long queues formed outside the shops when stocks of certain foods became available and shopkeepers would put up signs when they had run out of things, e.g. 'no tomatoes today'. Having a ration book was not a guarantee that you could get the items but it was a fair way to ensure that everybody had equal access to available goods.

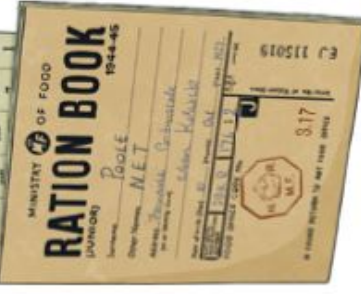


The Ministry of Food

During the war, the government appointed a Minister of Food to help control and regulate the food supplies available. From April 1940 until November 1943, the Minister of Food was Frederick Marquis, the Lord Woolton.

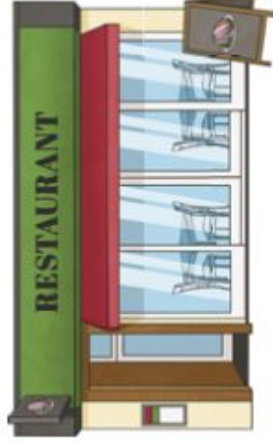
Lord Woolton was responsible for organising the rationing system and encouraging people to make the most of what they had. He worked closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, who established the 'Dig for Victory' propaganda campaign. This initiative had great success in encouraging people to grow their own food.

Lord Woolton also worked hard to promote a simpler, healthy diet and encouraged people to be creative with the foods they had and to try new things like whale meat. A meat-less pie was developed by the head chef at the Savoy Hotel in London in Woolton's name. The Woolton Pie and Lord Woolton helped to advertise it.



Eating Out

For those who could afford it, eating out at restaurants meant they could save a lot of their rations. Restaurants were not rationed at the beginning of the war and people were able to buy a good meal. However, over time, some people started to complain that it was unfair that people who could afford to eat out regularly were able to eat better. From 1942, the government ensured that restaurants could not charge more than five shillings for a meal, which meant they were more accessible to everybody.



People who worked were usually able to eat a good meal fairly cheaply during their working day and Lord Woolton ensured that children attending school got a free lunch each day and extra milk.

Other Rationing

Food was not the only thing rationed during the war. Petrol, soap, clothing and timber were also only available in limited supply. Clothing ration books were issued and people were encouraged to 'make do and mend'.



War time recipes to try at home

Cheese and Potato Dumplings

2 lbs of potatoes peeled (set aside the peel to bake in the oven for another delicious snack)
2 reconstituted dried eggs (or 2 fresh)
3 to 4 oz strong grated cheese
salt and pepper
dried herbs such as thyme (optional)

1. Cook the potatoes in boiling salted water
2. Set aside to drain in colander for 10 minutes
3. Mash potatoes, return to saucepan over low heat, add seasoning and herbs, mix well
4. Add eggs and half the cheese, mix well again and stir until potatoes firm up
5. Once cooled a little form into 10 balls and roll in the remaining grated cheese
6. Place on greased baking tray and bake in a hot oven for 20 minutes or so until browned and crusty

Bread Pudding (Serves 8 to 10)

10 ounces of stale bread (you'll have to use your kitchen scales!)
2 ounces of margarine or butter
1 ounce of sugar
2 ounces of dried raisin sultanas
1 egg (fresh or dried)
milk to mix
Cinnamon
extra sugar for topping

1. Put bread into a basin and add a little water. Leave for 10 minutes.
2. Squeeze bread out until fairly dry
3. Return bread to empty basin and add all the other ingredients (except spice) adding a little milk to make a sticky consistency
4. Add cinnamon a little at a time until your own taste
5. Place mixture into a greased pan (like a lasagna pan)
6. Cook at 160 degrees C for an hour or so until edges are browned and centre is hot
7. Sprinkle sugar on top 10 minutes before end of cooking
8. Allow to cool a little, slice and serve

Trench Stew

1 turnip
2 carrots
½ tin corned beef
¼ stock cube
one or two biscuits (optional)
1 pint of water

1. Put the water on to boil
2. Slice up the turnip and carrot
3. Add to the boiling water
4. Add the stock and stir then leave for 10 minutes
5. Mash up corned beef and add to the mixture
6. Add the biscuits and stir (optional)



What is VE Day?

VE Day stands for Victory in Europe Day, and is celebrated on the 8th May. It marked an end to the six years of suffering, misery but also endurance that defined the Second World War in Europe. Although it was not the end of the Second World War, it was the end of conflict in Europe.

How did it happen?

Hitler was the dictator of Germany, who had instigated the Second World War. After Hitler's death on 30th April 1945, the German President of the Third Reich, Grand Admiral Donitz, ordered that General Jodl go to the American General Eisenhower's Head Quarters based in France and surrender to the Western and Russian officers, agreeing to all their demands, on the 7th May.

The Announcement

The British people began celebrating as soon as they heard the news, although no official announcement had been made. Bell ringers in the churches around the country, were put on standby ready to ring out the good news when an official notice was given.

Joseph Stalin, the leader of the Russian's Communist Party, was reluctant to announce the surrender but the British Prime Minister,



Winston Churchill, did not want to give Stalin the satisfaction of holding up what everyone already knew anyway! Churchill made the following announcement at 19.40, 7th May:

"In accordance with arrangements between three great powers, tomorrow, Tuesday, will be treated as Victory in Europe Day and will be regarded as a holiday."



The Effects of War

In Britain, during the war in Europe, half a million homes were destroyed, thousands of civilians killed and millions of lives had been disrupted.



Bring on the Celebrations!

People took to decorating the streets with banners, bunting and ribbons. They organised impromptu street parties where neighbours shared food, which was still rationed, and listened to the wireless news broadcasts.

King George VI and the Queen appeared eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, and their two daughters, Princess Margaret and Princess Elizabeth – who is now Her Majesty the Queen – mingled amongst the crowds! Churchill told the crowds, "This is your victory!"

Churchill attended a celebratory lunch with King George VI then addressed the nation, reminding them that although Japan still had to be defeated, Great Britain "May allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing. God Save the King!"

The End of the VE Day

At 21:00, King George VI made a final broadcast to the nation. Buckingham Palace was lit up in floodlights for the first time since the start of the war, and two searchlights formed a V, the sign of peace, above St Paul's Cathedral in London.

All the illuminations were turned off the next day.



Although everyone was relieved that the war in Europe had ended, for many the celebrations would have been bittersweet. The loss of many loved ones, either fighting abroad, captured by the enemy or those who died in air raids, meant that many people felt a certain anti-climax after the celebrations.

Captain Tom Raises over £12 Million for NHS

What is Captain Tom Moore doing?

- Captain Tom Moore, 99, is raising money for the NHS.
- He has completed 100 laps of his garden before his 100th birthday on 30th April. At 8:00 a.m. on 16th April, he'd raised over £12 million.

A 99-year-old Second World War veteran has raised millions for the NHS. By Thursday morning, he had raised over £12 million!

Tom Moore, also known as Captain Tom, has completed 100 laps of his garden in Bedfordshire. He wanted to finish before his 100th birthday.

Captain Tom wanted to show support for NHS workers as they help those affected by COVID-19. Since 9th April, he's completed ten laps a day of his 25-metre garden.

At first, Captain Tom set himself the target of raising £1000. However, he inspired so many people that this target was soon overtaken!

After 24 hours, he'd raised £70 000; then, by 14th April, the donations totalled £1 million. When it reached £2.5 million, he said on social media, "Never in my wildest imagination did I think this would be possible."

By the evening of 14th April, he'd raised £4 million. A message said, "WOW!... cannot wait to tell the news to Tom in the morning."

Captain Tom had aimed to finish the challenge on 30th April. However, he completed it on 16th April — 14 days earlier! The moment was on live TV.

Tom has been raising money for the NHS Charities Together. Ellie Horton, from the group, said they were "humbled by Captain Tom and what he's achieved."

Today's story comes as people are showing



Illustration: Tom Moore completing his challenge.

support for each other at the moment. In the UK, every Thursday at 8 p.m., people have gone to their windows, front doors or balconies to clap NHS workers. NHS Charities Together wants people to donate money while they clap. They want to raise £5 million.

Children have been painting pictures of rainbows and putting teddy bears in windows to cheer people up. Around 750 000 adults have also become NHS volunteers. They'll help vulnerable people with a variety of jobs.

Glossary

veteran An ex-member of the armed forces.

NHS The National Health Service, which is responsible for healthcare in the UK.

volunteers People who give up their time for free to do something.

vulnerable In need of special care.

Questions

Captain Tom Raises over £12 Million for NHS

1. Why do you think Captain Tom wanted to complete 100 laps of his garden?

2. Compare and contrast what Captain Tom wanted to raise at the start with what he has now achieved.

3. "Never in my wildest imagination did I think this would be possible." This suggests that...
 Captain Tom wants to raise even more money.
 Captain Tom was completely surprised by the amount he'd raised.
 Captain Tom is going to do 200 laps.
 Captain Tom wants everyone to do laps of their garden.
4. Ellie Horton from the group said they were "humbled by Captain Tom and what he's achieved."
Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'humbled'.
 impressed
 happy
 interested
 calm
5. Lots of people are inspired by NHS workers. Find and copy a piece of evidence that shows this.

6. Write a summary of the story in 20 words or fewer.

