

Schools Programme

The Home front

Object handling session and talk gives children a general overview of the Second World War. A specific focus can also be added with activities and talks relating to the Blitz, Evacuation, or Rationing.

****prior to a visit we can send schools a list of 1940's clothes, what would have been in a rationed packed lunch, and a gas mask box template so children can get the feel of what it was like to be a child in the war and can arrive on their visit in evacuee fancy dress.***

General Overview

Children will have a general discussion about what they know about the Second World War with objects from the collection and photographs used to highlight certain points. This is followed by the children being split into groups to study objects in more detail using worksheets provided.

Evacuation

With enough prior warning we can set up the Museum's Anderson shelter and book an evacuee from the Medway Evacuee Reunion Group (M.E.R.G) who will talk to the children about what it was like to be evacuated and also answer their questions about life on the home front. In addition to this children can also receive a talk from the education officer about what it was like to be an evacuee and a World War Two object handling session. *If a member of M.E.R.G is unavailable sessions will consist of a talk and object handling session with the education officer.

Rationing

Again with enough prior warning the shelter could be set up for sessions to take place in. The children would be given a general talk about rationing and be show posters and objects to relating to this. They would also look at what other measures were in place to re-use things and produce enough food. The session would touch on the work of the land girls and other roles for women during the war. The children would take part in an exercise to see just how much people would have been given for a whole week by measuring out rationed ingredients and completing a worksheet.



The Blitz

The shelter and air raid siren would be used for this activity with enough prior warning. Children would hear the noise of the siren telling them to go to the shelter and possibly noises of bombs. They would then receive a talk and handling session on the Blitz and the battle of Britain, which towns were targeted and roles different people played (ARP warden, Firemen, the Home Guard etc) they would also look at how people protected themselves and the effects of the bombing on people and their lives. As well as what people did in shelters, e.g. singing.

