

Key Stage 2
World War
Two

Schools Programme Teachers Notes

These notes are to help you interpret some of the things in the Anderson Shelter and 1940's House displays.

Start your tour by the Searchlight and Anderson Shelter



Objects to point out



Questions to ask your class



Background information



Look inside the first set of sand bags. Look at the first aid kit.



Can you see who made this first aid kit?



The first aid box was made by Boots. We still have Boots the chemist today.



The first aid kit is an Air Raid Precautions First Aid Case. It would have been used by Air Raid Wardens in the Blitz.



Look at the searchlight.



What do you think the searchlight was used for in World War Two?



Searchlights were used for anti-aircraft defence. They would be shone into the sky to look for enemy planes. Royal Engineers used searchlights at the start of World War Two.





The building the museum is in was used for searchlight training. If you look at the building from the outside you can see six big turrets. Each turret would have had a searchlight on it.





 Look at the Air Raid Shelter.

? Why did people build air raid shelters? What were they for?


 Air raid shelters were built to provide people with shelter during the Blitz. When bombs were dropped people would stay inside their shelters to keep safe.

 Look at the photo of the Crist Family from Bromley standing next to their air raid shelter (on the 'Bore War' panel)

 A bomb dropped next to their shelter while they were asleep inside it. Look at the big hole made by the bomb!


 Look at the Little Girl inside the house. Her name is Mary.

? Why might Mary have been sent away during World War Two?


 Lots of children were evacuated in World War Two. They were sent away from towns and cities where lots of bombs were dropped, to the countryside where they would be safer.

? Where might Mary have been sent to?

? How would Mary feel about being evacuated? What might Mary take with her when she went away?

 Look at the photo of some children being evacuated in World War Two (on the 'Bore War' panel).

? Which school are the children in the photo from? Do they look happy or sad?

 The children in the photo are from St Michael's School in Chatham. Most of Kent was seen to be safe from the Blitz, but children from Medway were evacuated because they were so close to London.



Look at the woman inside the house.



What is the woman doing?



Why did the house have to be 'blacked out' in World War Two?



In World War Two everyone had to make sure that no light shone out from their houses at night. If you let any light show from your windows, enemy planes would know where to drop their bombs.



The woman is putting up the black out boards. Houses might have had black out curtains instead.



All street lights were turned off as well. People were only allowed to use dimmed torches in the street and cars had to have their headlights masked.



Look at the windows upstairs in the house.



Why have the windows got tape on them?



Windows were taped so that if a bomb dropped the glass wouldn't shatter. The glass would be held together by the tape and people would not get hurt.



Look at the man inside the house. He is Mary's Grandfather.



What is the man's job? (Clue: look at the badges on his uniform).



Grandad is in the Home Guard. Men who were too young or too old to join the armed forces could join the Home Guard. The home guard's job was to defend Britain from airborne enemy landings and to be ready in case there was an invasion.



Grandad was a Royal Engineer soldier in World War One!





Where do you think Mary's Dad is?





Mary's Dad served as a Royal Engineer in World War Two. He is away fighting.




 Look at the things inside the front room. Look for things that tell you that it is World War Two...


 The wireless


 Houses did not have televisions in World War Two. People listened to the radio (or wireless) instead. People would listen to news of the War and to music.


 Listen to the radio...


? Who is singing on the radio?


 You can hear George Formby singing. You can also hear a lady talking about what happened when bombs dropped near her home.

 The fireplace


 Houses did not have central heating in the Second World War. People had real fires instead to keep their houses warm.

 The sewing machine and the piece of material.

 In World War Two clothes were rationed and people could not buy many new clothes. They had to make do and mend! People would mend clothes with holes in them or make new clothes out of any spare material. The woman in the house is going to make clothes out of the piece of parachute silk next to the sewing machine.

 The gas mask next to the window.

? Who do you think this gas mask belongs to?

 The gas mask by the window is an adult gas mask. In World War Two people had to carry their gas mask with them all the time!



The gas mask on the chair by the little girl.



Why do you think this gas mask is made in bright colours?



The gas mask next to the little girl is a child's gas mask. It was called a Mickey Mouse gas mask because of the flap at the front that looks like a nose. It was made in bright colours to make children want to wear it.

The World War Two galleries continue until you reach the Courtyard. They provide information and displays about the work of the Royal Engineers in World War Two. If you have time, ask your group to find three things/jobs that the Royal Engineers did in World War Two - some answers:

Bomb disposal, mine laying and clearance, bridging, railway operation and construction, port operation and construction (including D Day Mulberry harbours), postal services, parachutist, commando and jungle fighter.

