

**BLITZ SCHOOL FREE WW2
TEACHING RESOURCE
COVER SHEET**

(Please note that the resource begins on the next page after this information sheet)

Introduction

Thank you for downloading this resource, which I hope you will find useful in teaching your Second World war topic. As an experienced teacher myself, I know how difficult it can be to try to design or find the right resources for any topic so your feedback is most welcome to enable me to make improvements. If you would like to provide feedback on your experience using this resource, please contact me at info@blitzschool.co.uk and I will be happy to listen to your comments.

So what is Blitz School?

The company is run by me, Darren Birchall, and I am an experienced QTS teacher offering fun and interactive WW2 simulated air raid warden training workshops based on the Home Front Experience during the second world war, tied in closely with the QCA topic “What was life like for children in the second world war?”

Each workshop lasts either a half or full day and involves an historical enquiry session with over 30 genuine WW2 artefacts, plus a series of 3 or 5 activities (for a half day/full day respectively) relating to the duties of an Air Raid Warden. Current prices are available on our website but are typically comparable to a day’s supply cost.

How do I find out more?

My website at www.blitzschool.co.uk has all the information you should require to make an informed choice about whether or not one of my workshops is suitable for your needs. Alternatively, please email me personally at info@blitzschool.co.uk for more information or to request a free enquiry pack. The site is also full of lots more free teaching resources for you to use with my compliments.

Regards (and happy History teaching ☺)

Darren



Teacher note:

This pack is intended to be used to provoke small group discussion about the Blitz although it could be equally also be used as a comprehension exercise. As such, it should provide some excellent speaking and listening or reading opportunities.

It can easily be used to support teaching of the WW2 topic after the new curriculum of Sept 2014, linked to either the 'local history' or 'significant events' strands of the 'history after 1066' option.

Many more resources and new planning for any WW2 topic approach or teaching WW2 under the new curriculum of Sept 2014 can be found on our website www.blitzschool.co.uk.

I hope you find this resource useful.

Regards,

Darren



Topic 1:

AIR RAID SHELTERS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

During the Blitz, one survey in the city of Hull revealed that only 1/3rd of people used shelters, with many choosing to stay in their homes or in bed.

DISCUSS WITH YOUR PARTNER OR GROUP:

1. Why do you think people chose not to use shelters?
2. Would you use the shelter? Why?
3. If you could go back in time, what would you say to persuade people to use the shelters?



Topic 2:

AIR RAID WARDENS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Air Raid Wardens were responsible for issuing gas masks, getting people into air raid shelters and making sure that people stuck to the rules of the blackout.

However, before the bombs fell, many people didn't like them.

DISCUSS WITH YOUR PARTNER OR GROUP:

1. Why do you think people didn't like the Air Raid Wardens at first?
2. How do you think their opinion changed as the bombs started falling and the blitz began?
3. What skills do you think you would need if you was an Air Raid Warden?



Topic 3:

THE BLACKOUT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The blackout law started on 31st August 1939, making all owners of any building black out their windows so that the light wouldn't shine on the street, from a half hour before it got dark until a half hour before it got light in the morning. However no bombs fell for seven months, which made a lot of people angry at the blackout rules.

DISCUSS WITH YOUR PARTNER OR GROUP:

1. Why do you think people were made to blackout their windows?
2. How would you blackout your window?
3. How would you feel when no bombs fell for seven months after blacking out your windows?



Topic 4:

UNEXPLODED BOMBS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Many bombs fell on the major cities of the UK in WW2, however not all of these exploded. These were called **UXBs** and caused a lot of trouble and delays as the brave soldiers of the Royal Engineers would spend days finding, digging and **defusing** them, which means making them safe.

DISCUSS WITH YOUR PARTNER OR GROUP:

1. What do you think it would have been like to have to defuse a dangerous bomb?
2. Some of these **UXBs** were designed by the Germans deliberately not to explode. Why do you think they did this?
3. What would it have been like to have lost your home to a bomb?



Topic 5:

THE ARP SERVICE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The **A**ir **R**aid **P**recaution Service was started in 1935, four years before the start of the war. It included Air Raid Wardens, medical staff and many more people trained to help the public survive air raids.

DISCUSS WITH YOUR PARTNER OR GROUP:

1. Why do you think the government started the ARP service so early before the war?
 2. Do you think this early start helped the British people to survive the war? Why?
3. Which of these ARP jobs would you have preferred to do and why?
 - a) Air Raid Warden
 - b) Ambulance driver
 - c) Air Raid phone operator



Topic 6:

ARP MESSENGERS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ARP messengers were boys and girls who took messages between Air Raid Wardens during the blitz, often in very dangerous conditions.

DISCUSS WITH YOUR PARTNER OR GROUP:

1. What do you think it would have been like to have been an ARP messenger?
2. Some of the messengers often chose to keep working when the bombs started to fall, even though they weren't supposed to. Why do you think they did this?
3. What would have been the most exciting part of being a messenger and also the scariest part?

