

The Second World War



Evacuees

Operation Pied Piper

- Over the age of 5 you go with your class not your mum
- Children were expected to pack for a year
- How big would a case for a year be?
- You carried your own case or back pack!
- The cases were very small; some children carried their things in a pillowcase
- What would you take?

Essentials list and contents of a 6yr olds suitcase


The List from the Government

- Change of underwear (spare pants)
- Socks
- Coat
- Toothbrush
- Towel
- You could also take 3 of the following list: Teddy or doll, paint box or crayons, prayer book, family photo, writing materials, knitting or sewing, address book, favourite book.
- You couldn't phone your family, only write
- What would you take ?

The contents of our suitcase (for a boy)

- 3 pairs of pants, socks, long vests
- 2 shirts, 2 pairs of shorts
- 2 jumpers (Teddy bear)
- Pyjamas (extra long for growing into roll the ends)
- Towel, soap, tooth brush
- 3 of each thing = one on, one off and one in the wash
- Handkerchiefs (no paper tissues)
- Marbles
- Purse with money, stamps and family photo
- You would wear your school uniform and your coat if you had one.

Draw in the things you would pack. In Brackets put how many you would take

e.g. (x2) 



- Shirts have elastic bottoms cannot be tucked in. This saves material which can make an extra shirt (but leaves a cold gap when you grow: that's why you need the long vests)
- Soap is rationed and you must never leave it to go soggy
- Some children shared a tooth brush
- A big coat with lots of growing room means it will fit for longer and it can be used as an extra blanket (no heating in bedrooms)
- Clothes are rationed. You can only have a few new things a year. So learn to mend your clothes and polish your shoes. All children wore things till they were far too small or worn out. If your house was bombed the local WVS (Women's Voluntary Service) would get you second hand clothes from an emergency store.

Rationing

- Britain is an island. This kept us safe from invaders but was hard for us to get food and products from abroad. **It ALL came by ship.**
- We needed petrol and cotton and wheat for bread from America and Canada
- Coffee and Cocoa from Africa
- Sugar from the West Indies. Bananas were only on prescription for coeliac children. Sugar and sweets were rationed you could only buy your allowance every week which was very small. 100 g of sweets or chocolate. Weigh your favourite sweets could you have a whole bar or packet?
- Tea and rice from India
- Meat and wool from Australia and New Zealand
- Silk from China for parachutes
- Rubber From Burma (now called Myanmar). This was needed for water proofing clothes, wellies, scientific equipment and tyres for cars and lorries

ALL of this had to come to the UK by boat and submarines called Uboats tried to sink them.

Until the convoy system and sonar, HALF of all ships were sunk. So sticking to rations and making things last **LITERALLY** saved lives.



What were these objects for? Why would you need them?



Answers

Gas mask and Gas rattle

- In the first world war many people were very badly injured or killed by gas. People were scared that gas could be used on the home front. So every man woman and child was given a gas mask . When you heard the gas rattle you were to put on your gas mask before helping others.
- Why do you think you needed to get your mask on first ?
- Design a poster telling people what to do when they hear the Gas rattle.

Tin Helmet and Anti aircraft shell

- During air raids no one was allowed out without a tin helmet on. Ordinary people had to go to shelters.
- If you went out without a helmet you could be hit by the empty metal shells that fired huge bullets at enemy bombers. These were heavy and fell hard and fast.
- What would happen if one hit you on the head with no protection?
- Design a poster to tell people why they need to wear their tin helmet in raids.