



Session summary:

In a roll play activity children are asked to imagine that they are evacuees. They are talked through the arrangements and practicalities of the evacuation and the impact of the upheaval is discussed. The class is then split into 3 groups and given opportunity to handle an evacuee suitcase, which contains authentic recordings of evacuees voices, evacuees letters home and original artefacts, which are used to prompt discussion and promote empathy. A surprise role play air raid leads to looking at images of the damage caused during the bombing raids on Luton and discussing whether Luton was a safe place to be evacuated to and ends with a practice gas mask drill.



Learning objectives:

- To learn that the threat of heavy bombing prompted the evacuation scheme and that it was children from the big cities and towns who were evacuated.
- To understand that parents were not forced to send their children away, but such was the fear of bombings that most did.
- To appreciate children were evacuated as a school without their parents, and brothers and sisters were not always kept together.
- To analyse some of the items that children were permitted to take with them.

Curriculum links-

English - Spoken language-

- Listen and respond
- Ask relevant questions
- Develop understanding through speculating, hypothesising, imagining and exploring ideas
- Speak audibly and fluently

History-

- Local history study; An extended period study, e.g. Significant turning points in British history

SMCS-

- Understanding & appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage
- Sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them.
- Willingness to participate in a variety of social settings;

Skills-

- Working as part of a team



Additional information:

This session takes place in an enclosed basement room and includes loud noises and pictures of bomb damage.

It is useful to know if any members of your class have learning, physical or sensory difficulties or illnesses that may affect their enjoyment of the session. It is usually possible to tailor the session to the needs of your class. Please let us



Suggested activities:

Before the visit

Although this session can be used as an introduction to WWII it is beneficial for the children to have some basic knowledge of the conflict before they come. For example they should know basic facts like when the war started and ended, which were the main countries involved and have heard of the terms evacuee and rationing.

During the visit

If you have time you could take your class on a walking trail around Luton to show them some of the areas which were bombed. We can loan photographs to accompany this trail for use on the day. Please visit our website to download this trail and let us know in advance if you would like to use the photographic resources.

After the visit

The class could complete some creative writing describing how they would have felt if they were evacuated. What extra items would they want to take and why.

Useful resources

- Keep Smiling Through resource pack which provides staff with additional information about Luton during WWI and some resources that can be used by the students.
- World War Two: Bomb site Discovery Trail

Both available at request

