

CHILDREN IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR



History, Literacy and Remembrance



Key Stage 2



Session Two
2 – 4 hours

In this session you will learn about two young people that were evacuated from their homes during the Second World War. You will have some activities to complete throughout the session.

Jean Huckstepp – a life in Wales

Jean Huckstepp was born in London. She was very young when she was evacuated to Wales, where she was placed with an elderly couple. Jean loved living with her host family saying she had a wonderful time and they felt like her family. She found it hard when she went back to London as she had to readjust to her life at home.

Here she talks about her experience of being an evacuee in the Second World War.

Being so young, I have no recollection of anything before living in Hirwenydd in the village of Beulah (in Wales). Mammie and Jack were a wonderful couple, already in their 60s and had brought up 12 children of their own, so they had plenty of experience and they treated me exactly like one of their own family.

I count myself very, very lucky to have been brought up by such a loving, caring couple. I lived with them for five years and it broke my heart to leave them and my friends that I had made. It was the only life that I knew. I could speak and understand Welsh, I felt Welsh and to me it felt as though I were leaving home. Although I was going back to England to live with Mum and Dad and my sister and brother, I'm sure that the situation didn't really make me as happy as it should have done. I was going to live in a completely different world, and I didn't know what to expect.

Jean's Diary

How do you think Jean was feeling as she travelled back to London from Hirwenydd?

Pick three of the words below.

- ☐ Scared
- ☐ Happy
- ☐ Worried
- ☐ Nervous
- ☐ Confused
- ☐ Excited
- ☐ Angry
- ☐ Uncertain
- ☐ Lonely

Pretend that you are Jean, travelling back to London. Write a diary entry describing how you are feeling.

Try to include the three words you chose.

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Try to include the three words you chose.

[The page contains two columns of horizontal lines for writing.]

Vera Schaufeld and Kindertransport

Vera Schaufeld was born in Czechoslovakia where she lived with her mother and father. Her mother was a doctor, and her father was a lawyer.

Just before the start of the Second World War, Czechoslovakia was invaded by the Nazis. Because Vera and her family were Jewish, the Nazis arrested Vera's father and would not let her mother continue working as a doctor.

Vera's mother and father wanted her to be safe, so they sent her to England as part of Kindertransport. Vera's parents were not allowed to go with her so Vera got on the train alone. Her parents waved their handkerchiefs to say goodbye, as the train left.

When Vera arrived at the train station in England, she was worried that nobody would come to collect her. But Leonard and Nancy Faires picked her up and looked after her. At first, Vera would receive letters and presents from her parents, but when the Second World War started, she stopped hearing from them.

When the war was over, Vera thought that she would go home and live with her parents again. However, she soon discovered that her parents had been killed by the Nazis along with the rest of her family. Her last memory of her parents was them waving their handkerchiefs at the train station.*

*Vera's story can be found at Holocaust Memorial Day Trust | Vera Schaufeld MBE (hmd.org.uk)

Second World War Map

In the Second World War, Nazi Germany invaded many places, including:

Here is a map of the world labelled as it was in the Second World War. Can you copy this map and colour in all the areas that were invaded by Nazi Germany?



What would evacuees take with them?

This is the list that was sent to parents. Do you know what all the items on the list are? If you don't, why not try and find out?

Children that were evacuated first often took a teddy bear or toy for comfort. Later children were not allowed to take toys or teddies, but some smuggled them along anyway.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION PLAN

TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

You are living in a place where you can send your child to be evacuated to a safe place.
If you want your child to go, fill the form in and take it back to school.

Arrangements to be made.

1. Clothing

Pack the following items for your child in a bag or a suitcase. If you do not have everything, please let the school know.

BOY

2 vests
2 underpants
2 shirts
2 pyjamas or night shirts
2 pairs socks
2 pairs boots or shoes
1 Wellingtons (if possible)
1 warm coat and/or mackintosh (if not being worn)
1 pair knickers or trousers
1 pullover
6 handkerchiefs
1 toothbrush
1 face flannel
1 comb
2 towels
Gas mask
Identity card
Ration book
Clothing and personal coupons

GIRL

2 vests
2 liberty bodices (if worn)
2 knickers
2 nightdresses or pyjamas
2 pairs socks or stockings
2 pairs shoes
1 Wellingtons (if possible)
1 warm coat and/or mackintosh
1 warm dress or tunic and jersey
1 cardigan
2 cotton frocks
6 handkerchiefs
1 toothbrush
1 face flannel
1 comb
2 towels
Gas mask
Identity card
Ration book
Clothing and personal coupons

2. Your child should go away with clean clothes, clean hair and a clean body.

3. Luggage. Your child should wear their warmest and thickest footwear. The list above is the minimum requirements, your child can take more but they must be able to carry everything themselves.

4. Food. Your child must take a packed lunch for the day.

Please keep this note for reference and return the form below to your child's school immediately if you want them to take part in the evacuation plan.

Evacuation Suitcase Activity

You are going to be evacuated and you have been asked to pack your suitcase. Look at the list above and draw these items in your case. What else would you take? Would you take a toy, a book, or a photograph?

Draw and label everything in your suitcase.

