



History

World War II

Evacuation

twinkl

A stylized illustration of a train with a grey roof and yellow-orange sides, moving from left to right. The train is partially obscured by the text boxes.

Aim

- I can write a letter in role as an evacuee from World War II.

Success Criteria

- I can describe what evacuees needed to take with them on their journey.
- I can use different thinking skills to help me organise information about being evacuated.
- I can explain when, where and why children were evacuated.
- I can describe how it might have felt to be evacuated.

The Suitcase



Look at the suitcase and its contents.

Discuss the following with your partner:

- How old do you think the suitcase is?
- Who do you think the suitcase belongs to?
- What do you think it is to be used for?
- What do you know about the contents of the case?
- What do the contents tell us about the owner of the case?
- Why would the owner of the case need those items?
- What else might the owner want to pack in the case?



The Suitcase



The Suitcase



The suitcase belongs to a child, who was evacuated during World War II.

It contains clothing items, a ration book, identity card and food for the journey. Many children took other personal items like a teddy bear, a toy or comics.

Some poorer children could not afford a suitcase so they carried their belongings in a haversack or tied them up in jute instead. Some very poor children did not take any personal belongings at all.

MOTHERS let them go-
give them a chance of
greater safety and health



MINISTRY OF HEALTH EVACUATION SCHEME

The Suitcase



During World War II, many people were evacuated from the cities to the countryside where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. In total, over 3.5 million children were evacuated.

Evacuation

Read and Remember



Mostly children were evacuated but other evacuees included mothers with very young children, pregnant women, disabled people, teachers and helpers to look after the children.

Evacuation happened in distinct waves with the first wave of evacuations beginning on the 1st September, 1939, which was two days before Britain officially declared war on Germany. Other waves occurred at the start of the Battle of Britain in June 1940 and at the start of the Blitz in September 1940.



True or False?

TRUE

Only children were evacuated.

FALSE

Evacuation only happened once during the war.

Evacuation

Read and Remember



On evacuation day, children travelled with their teacher or helper by train to their destination.

All children had to wear an identity label and take their gas mask, ration book, identity card and food for the journey. Many children also took a suitcase containing clothes and personal items.

When they reached their destination, billeting officers were responsible for arranging for children to stay with host families. For many children this involved being selected out a line by their host. This was an upsetting experience for some children who felt unwanted or rejected.



True or False?

TRUE

All children had to carry a gas mask.

FALSE

Children travelled to the countryside with their parents.

Evacuation

Read and Remember



At the start of the war, to many people in Britain, it seemed that not much was happening. As a result, **some** parents decided to bring their children home again. Some children were evacuated overseas and lived with host families in places as far away as Australia and Canada.



True or False?

FALSE

Children stayed in the country for the whole of the war.

TRUE

Some children were evacuated to other countries.

In Their Shoes



Imagine you are a child who is being evacuated. You are bound to have a mixture of emotions about what you are about to experience.

Work with the other children in your group. Look at the thinking hats and the type of thinking they represent. How does it apply to the experience of being evacuated? Can you add any other questions?



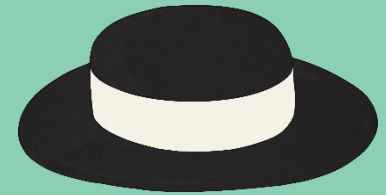
Blue:
Thinking



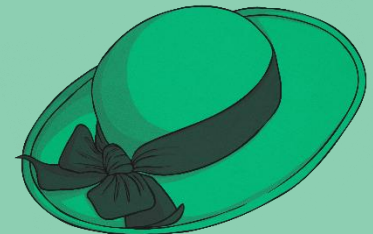
White:
Information



Yellow:
Positives

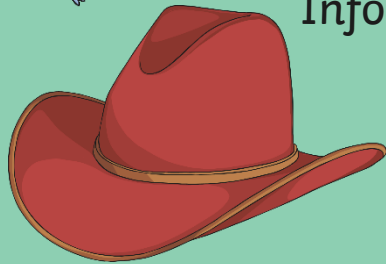


Black:
Information



Green:
Creative

Red:
Emotions



In Their Shoes



White: Information

What do I know already
about evacuation?

What else would I
like to know?



What key facts
Can I recall?

What else do I
need to know?

In Their Shoes



Blue: Thinking

What do I need to think about as I embark on my journey?

How can I prepare myself for this?



What will I do next?

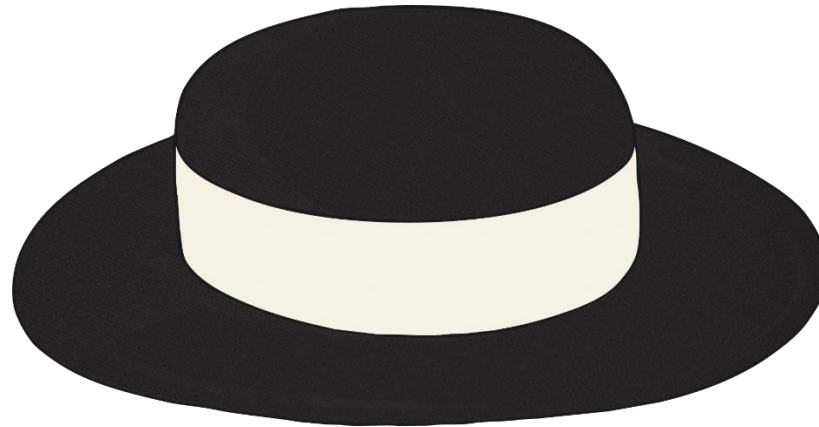
In Their Shoes



Black: Problems

What might go wrong or not as expected?

Is evacuation going to work out?



Will my new family accept me?

In Their Shoes



Green: Creative

What can I do to make this experience as pleasant as possible?



How can I help others?

How can I solve the black hat evacuation problems?

In Their Shoes



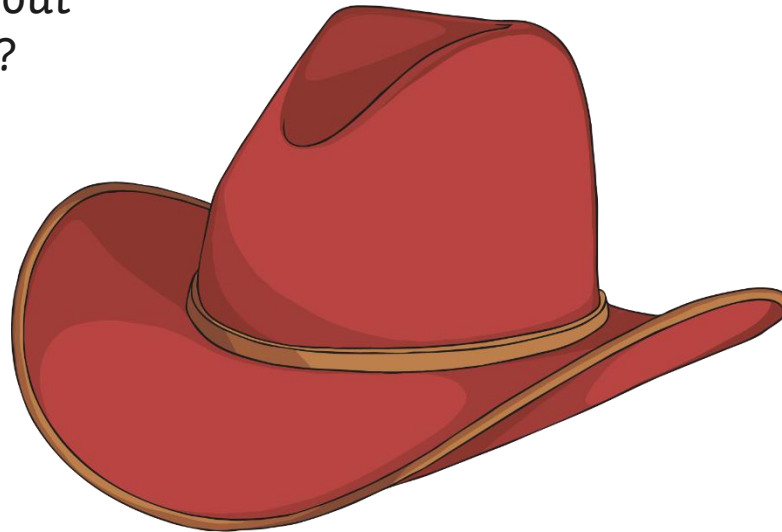
Red: Emotions

How do I feel about being evacuated?

What do I not like about being evacuated?

What do I like about being evacuated?

What am I most nervous or worried about?



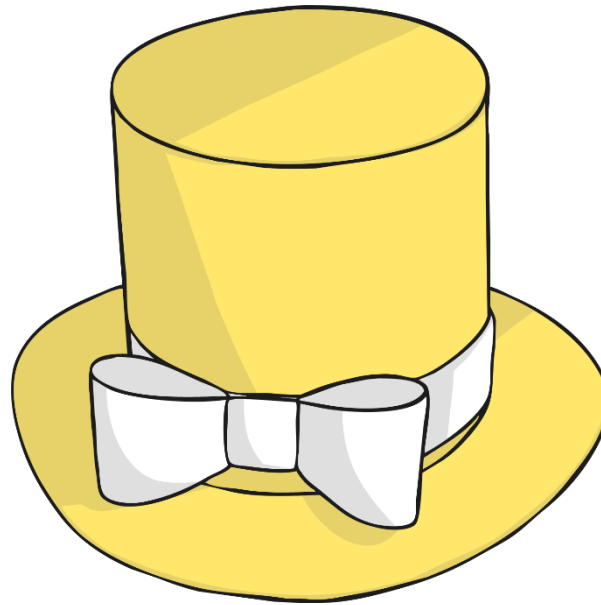
What do I find most exciting or interesting?

In Their Shoes



Yellow: Positives

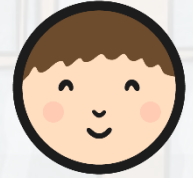
Why is evacuation happening?



What are the good points about being evacuated?

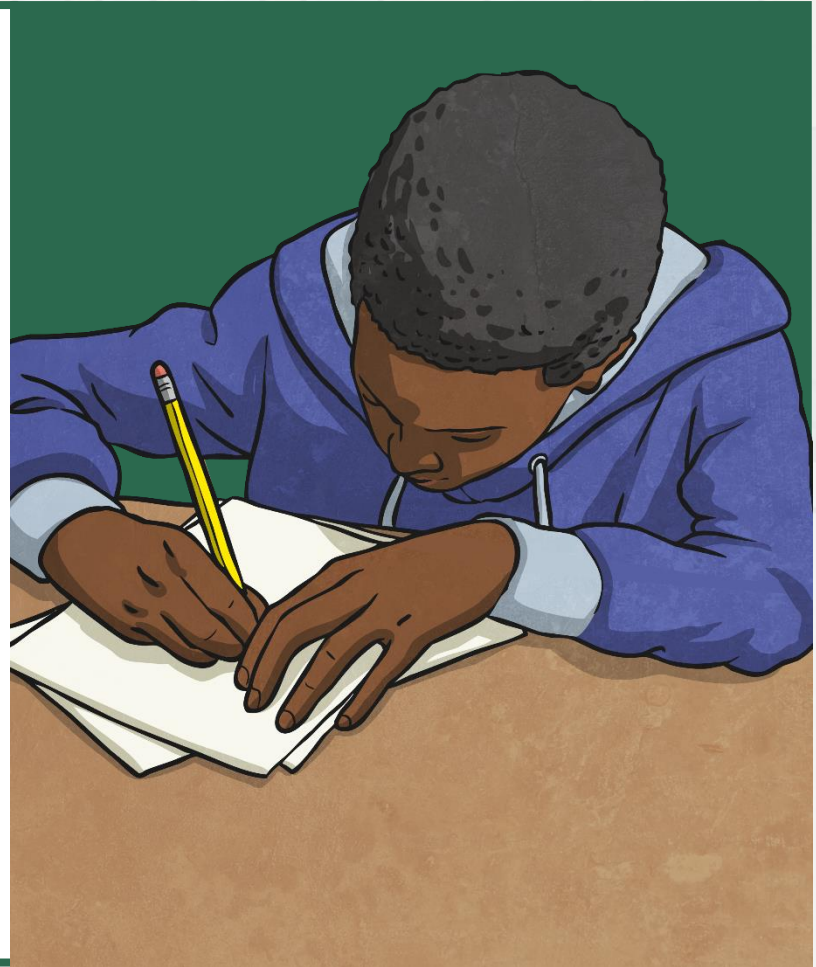
How is being evacuated going to help me?

Evacuee Letter



Your challenge is to write a letter in role as an evacuee from World War II.

Use your responses to the thinking hat questions and the prompts on the **Evacuee Letter Activity Sheet** to help you.



Hot Seating



Who will take the hot seat and answer questions about their experience of being an evacuee?



Can you think of any questions you would like to ask an evacuee?

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