



## EVACUATION: WORKSHEET ONE

### Evacuation

As part of the preparations for war the Government planned to move most children away from dangerous cities to safe areas in the country, where they would stay with local people. The main evacuation started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1939, two days before Britain declared war on Germany. Children had to assemble at school with their gas mask and a spare set of clothes. Many families were split apart as young children were sent to places of safety.



*LEEWW : 2005.2933 V1  
flying bomb falling on  
London*

Children in London were taken to railway stations and travelled with their teachers to towns and villages in the country.

Many of the poorer city children had never been outside of the city.

This evacuation was largely successful but there were some mix ups and confusion. For example some villages received more evacuees than expected or had evacuees arrive unexpectedly. There was also a shortage of homes willing or able to take in evacuees.

1. Explain why the Government wanted to evacuate children from the cities?
2. What other groups of people do you think the Government might have evacuated?
3. Make a list of the words to describe the feelings of the children on the day of evacuation.



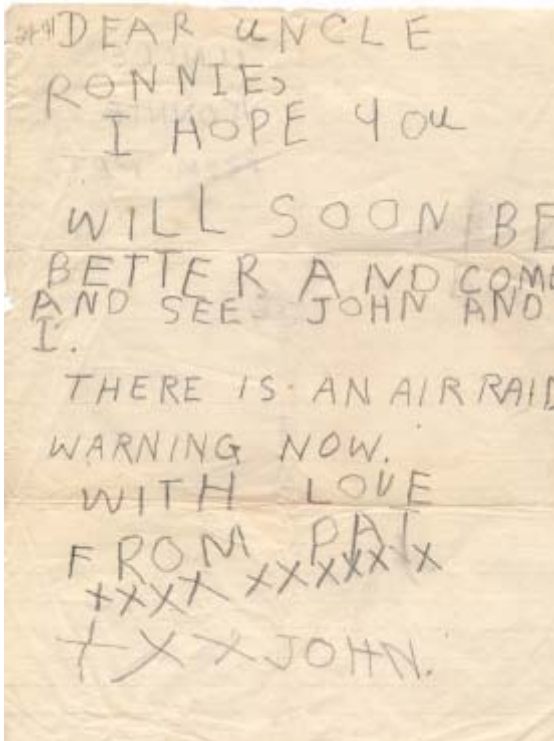
*LEEWW : 2003.2442.2.7 Class  
at St George's Road Primary  
School, Wallasey, 1939 or  
1940, prior to evacuation.*

4. Write a paragraph explaining why for many of the children evacuation seemed like a holiday at first?
5. Imagine you were one of the children to be evacuated. Write a diary page about the events and experiences of the day.



## EVACUATION: WORKSHEET TWO

### Evacuation – Life Away From Home



LEWW: 2000.417.3.23 Letter sent to Ron Hopper by his nephew and niece

Some evacuees had a very positive experience of evacuation but others found life difficult or were homesick. Places to stay for evacuees were organised in advance but this was not always successful.

In some places the newly arrived children were gathered together and most families chose who they would have. Sometimes groups of children were taken through the streets to try to find them a place to stay.

Many evacuees had a positive experience and formed life long friendships with the people they stayed with. For some children it was the first time they had been to the country. For others it was the first time they had a bed of their own and a regular hot bath.

Unfortunately some evacuees were not made welcome. During the day they would go to village schools made overcrowded by their presence. Local children could make the newcomers' lives difficult and after school or

at weekend they might be made to work around the house or on nearby farms.

1. What do you think the children felt like when they were being selected by a host family?
2. Imagine you are an evacuee. Write a letter to your family telling them all about your new home and life.
3. Imagine evacuees have come to stay with your family. Describe how you feel about two evacuees coming to stay with you.
4. How do you think people feel when they come to live in Britain today? What do you think people experience who come to live in Britain nowadays? Why do you think Britain is a good place to live in?



LEWW : 2003.2405.2.5 Pat Land and her mother await evacuation from Southampton