



THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE

EDUCATION: THE HOME FRONT

SUPPORTING THE WAR EFFORT: WORKSHEET ONE

The 'Home Front'

The Second World War affected everyone, not only those who were in the Army, Navy or Air Force, but also those left behind. Everyone was expected to make a contribution. The people at home were said to be fighting on the 'Home Front.'



LEEW: 2003.2244.3 A young Tom Ashton (second from the right) at an award ceremony at Keighley Cine Club in about 1944.

Tom Ashton and his father Richard made films of life in Silsden, West Yorkshire, during the Second World War. These show people making their contribution to the war. Watch the videos in module one 'Supporting the War Effort' and try to work out what is taking place and what the different people might be saying to one another.

- After watching the videos discuss with the class what you think might be happening in them.
- Make a list of evidence that demonstrates that the video was actually recorded during the 1940's.
- Imagine you had to create a film, nowadays or during the Second World War, showing what you could do to raise money. Use a story board to draw out and describe the activities you would include.
- Can you think of any difficulties that Tom and his dad might have had producing the film? Imagine what people would have thought of you walking around filming during the war.



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SUPPORTING THE WAR EFFORT: WORKSHEET ONE CONTINUED

The 'Home Front' - Story Board Layout



SUPPORTING THE WAR EFFORT: WORKSHEET TWO

Changes in Daily Life

Everyone's lives changed during the Second World War. Many women went out to work for the first time filling the jobs left by men who had joined the Armed Services. Others took jobs in munitions factories producing weapons and aircraft or joined the Women's Land Army helping to produce food for the nation. Many children found jobs on farms whilst others spent time 'scavenging' to raise money.

Materials became scarce and industries had to change and adapt. Waddington's the company who made playing cards and board games developed a very cunning plan. They hid silk maps in the board games they produced which were then sent to prisoner of war camps.

1. Explain why children were needed to work on the farms and factories employed women.
2. 'Scavenging' is a form of recycling. Make a list of the items that people should be collecting for recycling nowadays.
3. The items in the table below were all 'scavenged' by children during the Second World War. Can you think of at least one use for each of the items? Copy out the table and fill it in with as many ideas as possible.

Scavenged Item	Uses
Iron Railings	
Buttons	
Books	
Food Scraps	



LEEWW : 2001.842.2.2 'Mine Sweeping Gloves', poem written on a paper mitten to promote wartime fundraising.

4. What kind of rewards do you think children could expect for being successful 'scavengers'?

5. Can you think of any reasons why children might have been discouraged from spending too much time 'scavenging'?

6. Design your own certificate and set of badges to award to successful 'scavengers'.



LEEWW : 2003.2154.2 Book recovery paper badge



LEEWW : 2000.387 RAF Comforts Committee Badge



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SUPPORTING THE WAR EFFORT: WORKSHEET THREE

Community Fundraising on the 'Home Front.'

Communities throughout the country organised events to raise money to support the Armed Services. Special weeks were planned with loads of activities and just about everyone joined in. Some of these weeks had special names such as Weapons Week, Warship Week or Wings for Victory Week.

For example the people of Horsforth near Leeds raised £241 000 to pay for a small fast warship, *HMS Aubretia*. This ship later became famous when it helped in the capture of a German submarine containing an Enigma decoding machine.

The residents of Leeds raised 9 million pounds in their Warship Week. This paid for a new the aircraft carrier to replace *HMS Ark Royal*.

- Explain why you think each week had a different name such as Weapons Week, Warship Week or Wings for Victory Week
- Imagine you were living in your community during the Second World War. Plan a week's activities to raise money to help with the war effort.

Day	Activities
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	

- If your community raised £250 000 explain what type of military resources do you think you could spend the money on?
- Draw your own totaliser to show how much was needed to produce the different military tanks, planes or ships.
- The photograph on the right is a picture of the Women's Voluntary Service in the village of Thatcham in Berkshire. Look at 'Supporting the War Effort' to find out how the people of Thatcham supported the war effort.



LEEWW : 2000.266.9.1 Group photograph of Thatcham WVS