

# TAKE FLIGHT

Exploring our aviation heritage

Aviation Heritage

Lincolnshire

*a partnership of Lincolnshire's aviation heritage*



## In short supply

### Key stage 2

History  
Chronological understanding  
Historical interpretation  
Historical enquiry  
British History

### Key Stage 3

History  
Chronological understanding  
Change and continuity  
Cause and consequences  
Interpretation

### Aim of the sessions

To look at what life was like for men, women and children in 1940s Britain.

What was rationing?

What was it like to live during rationing?

### Venues

Cranwell Aviation Heritage Centre  
Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre  
Metheringham Airfield Visitor Centre  
Thorpe Camp Visitor Centre.

The activities are suitable for use in preparation for a visit to venues with an interest in the Home Front. The evacuees stories were kindly supplied by Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre and the Lincolnshire Echo.

### Roles

1940s shop keeper



## Introduction

Discuss the idea of rationing with children. Explain that rationing was introduced during the Second World War and why.

Use the background information.

You can use the PowerPoint to show children what a ration book looked like or you can buy replica ration books in kits.

## Activity

The first items to be rationed were bacon butter and sugar in January 1940.

The weekly allowance was:

Butter or lard: 4 ounces

Sugar: 12 ounces

Raw bacon or Ham: 4 ounces

Eggs x two

Cooked bacon or Ham: 3.5 ounces

Can children work out how much this is in Kilograms and what that amount of food would look like?

Talk about the different currency at the time with pounds, shillings and pence. Ask children to make currency of the time.

£1.00 = 20 shillings

2 shillings = 24d

1 shilling = 12d

1 d = 2 ½ d

In present day coinage

£1.00 = 100 pence

2 shillings = 10 pence

1 shilling = 5 pence

1 d = 2 pence

## Activity

Ask children to create ration books and coupons based on the actual documents.

Then set up a shop with 1940s food. Make sure children check ration books to make sure customers are only buying what they are allowed.

As the War progressed other items were added to the list including:

- breakfast cereals
- canned fruit
- cheese
- eggs
- jam
- milk
- peas

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- rice
- tea
- tinned tomatoes.

Food rationing lasted until 1954.

## **Activity**

Ask the children to make a diary of what they eat in a week or a day. Then ask them if they would have been able to eat this during the war? Can they think of things they could have eaten instead? How could they have made sure they had enough food? What is their favourite meal? Could they have made this during the war? Make a list of their favourite foods and see how many were rationed.

Design a poster to tell people during the war about rationing and explain why it is important.

## **Discussion activity**

If rationing were to be brought in today, ask children to decide which foods should be rationed and why.



## Rations

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## Old money

£5.00 = 100 shillings	= £5 or 500pence
£1.00 = 20 shillings	= £1 or 100pence
10 shilling note	= 10 shillings 50p
A crown = 5 shillings	= 25p
Half a crown = 2 shillings and 6d	= 12.5 p
2 shillings = 24d	= 10 pence
1 shilling = 12d	= 5 pence
sixpence	= 2.5 pence
threepence	= 1.5 pence
1 d	= 0.5 pence
halfpenny = 1/2d	
farthing = 1/4d	

## **Background information**

### **Rationing**

Before the Second World War Britain imported around 55 million tons of food, but when War was declared Britain realised that its food supplies from abroad were vulnerable to attack. If ships carrying food were attacked this could lead to food shortages.

To make the most of Britain's food supplies the government introduced rationing in alongside a campaign encouraging people to dig for victory – grow their own food.

Everyone received a ration book that contained coupons for things like sugar, bacon and butter. They were only allowed to buy a certain amount. People had to register with their local shops. Shopkeepers had to stamp the ration books when they sold rationed items and take the correct number of coupons.

Even with rationing in place there were shortages. The government introduced a campaign to Dig for Victory – where it encouraged people to grow their own food.

Because food was rationed and there were shortages some people took advantage and offered to luxuries like chocolate and stockings but for very high prices.

The government issued cookery books with advice on how to make the most of the meagre rations. Some of these cookery books can be seen at the venues along with items from a 1940s kitchen.

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Meat rationing started 11 March 1940.

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Food rationing lasted until 1954.

In 1941 clothes were rationed. Petrol was rationed too. People were encouraged to conserve resources and make do and mend wherever possible.

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## Activity: Make do and mend

Because clothes were rationed women became very good at mending and altering clothes. Look at the articles on the PowerPoint about mending clothes and looking after shoes.

### Discussion

Ask children what they think about this advice?

Would they take notice of this advice now?

Would any of these messages be relevant now?

If so, why?

Can they think of specific instances where they could offer advice to make an item of clothing last longer?

### Activity

Campaign

How might they encourage their classmates to be less wasteful?

Children could focus on things that are in short supply or precious now like water or fuel.