

Did you know?

- Schools sent letters home telling parents what to pack for their children's evacuation. Recommended items included washing items, clean clothes, sturdy walking shoes and a favourite book.
- *Operation Pied Piper* was the code name for the evacuation of nearly three million people, most of whom were children, from towns and cities in danger from enemy bombing.
- Children were sometimes evacuated to homes very different from their own. Some ended up in country houses with butlers! Some children, evacuated from slum homes without bathrooms, refused to get into baths in their temporary home because they were scared of drowning!
- Important paintings from the National Gallery were evacuated to Wales during the War to keep them safe!
- Many children were evacuated on special steam trains. Their journeys often took several hours.
- Each evacuee carried a gas mask, food for the journey and a small bag for washing things and clothes. The children had a label pinned to them giving their name, home address, school and where he or she was going.
- Neville Chamberlain was the British Prime Minister at the start of the Second World War. He resigned in May 1940 and was replaced by Winston Churchill.
- The war speeches of Winston Churchill, including 'We shall fight them on the beaches', boosted the morale of the British public in times of fear and uncertainty and inspired eventual victory.
- Anderson shelters were built in gardens using corrugated iron. Morrison shelters were constructed indoors.
- Anne Frank was only 13 years old when she went into hiding with her family in Amsterdam.
- During the Second World War, British eating habits improved. Rationing meant that food was shared equally between the rich and poor. People ate more vegetables to fill themselves up, and foods such as white bread and sugar were less readily available.
- Children were given daily milk, cod liver oil and orange juice to boost their vitamin levels. Improved diet and nutrition meant that children grew taller and heavier than before the War.