

www.secondworldwarni.org

SECOND WORLD WAR

ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCE for NORTHERN IRELAND

THE HOME FRONT



ACTIVITY PACK *for* **PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

THE HOME FRONT

ACTIVITIES

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The British government issued posters to its people to be on alert for enemy spies.

Enemy spies disguised themselves as British citizens so they could gather information which might be useful to help Germany win the war. People were encouraged to be careful about who they talked to, in case they were an undercover spy.

These posters were a form of government 'propaganda'. 'Propaganda' means information which is spread with the aim of helping a cause, in this case to win the war.

Find the spies in the propaganda posters. Circle them when you find them.

Can you name the spies? Hint: There are 2 of them.

What do you think the term 'Careless Talk Costs Lives' means?



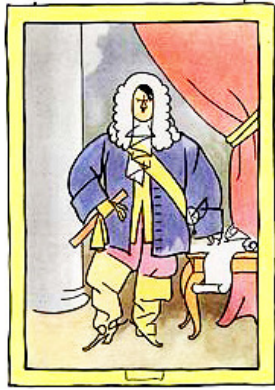
Don't forget that walls have ears!

**CARELESS TALK
COSTS LIVES**



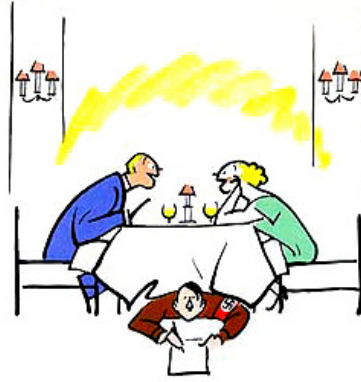
"..... but for Heaven's sake don't say I told you!"

**CARELESS TALK
COSTS LIVES**



"... strictly between these four walls!"

CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES



"Of course there's no harm in your knowing!"

CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES



You never know who's listening!

CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES



"Strictly between you & me"

CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES

Secret Codes

During the war, secret messages were communicated using Morse Code.

Morse Code is a system of electronic communication. It uses dots, dashes, and spaces to represent letters, punctuation, and numbers. The symbols are arranged to spell out a message. A machine called a telegraph converts the symbols into electrical signals and sends them across a wire to their destination. The signals are then converted back into the message by the telegraph.

The traditional voiced codes are "dit" for the short dot and "dah" for the long dash.

Can you voice some letters of the alphabet using 'dit's and 'dah's?



In **SPIES & PROPAGANDA**, watch the video **Wireless Stations**. People talk about the Gilnahirk wireless station and listening to secret messages. You can hear morse code in the video – listen for the 'dit's' and 'dah's'.

The Morse Code Alphabet

A	● —	U	● ● —
B	— ● ● ●	V	● ● ● —
C	— ● — ●	W	● — —
D	— ● ●	X	— ● ● —
E	●	Y	— ● — —
F	● ● — ●	Z	— — ● ●
G	— — ●		
H	● ● ● ●		
I	● ●		
J	● — — —		
K	— ● —		
L	● — ● ●		
M	— —		
N	— ●		
O	— — —		
P	● — — ●		
Q	— — ● —		
R	● — ●		
S	● ● ●		
T	—		
		1	● — — — —
		2	● ● — — —
		3	● ● ● — —
		4	● ● ● ● —
		5	● ● ● ● ●
		6	— ● ● ● ●
		7	— — ● ● ●
		8	— — — ● ●
		9	— — — — ●
		0	— — — — —

Morse Code Activity 1

On a piece of paper, write out a short and simple message to your partner in Morse code. Leave a space between the letters. Here is an example:

....	---
H	E	L	L	O

My Message in code

Message received from my partner

Morse Code Activity 2

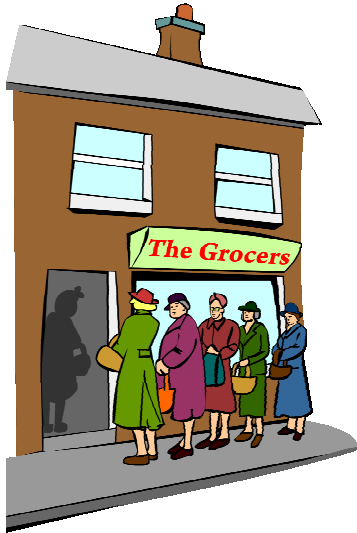
You will need a torch for this activity. With a partner, take turns using the torch to exchange short messages. Use long flashes for dashes and short flashes for dots. Take a short break between letters.

When you receive a message, write down the dashes and dots on paper and then decode them!



A torch used for Morse Code

Message received from my partner



Rationing



Explore **RATIONING**
& **DIG FOR VICTORY**.

Look out for answers to the
questions below.

Define the term 'rationing'.

Describe how items were rationed during the Second World War.

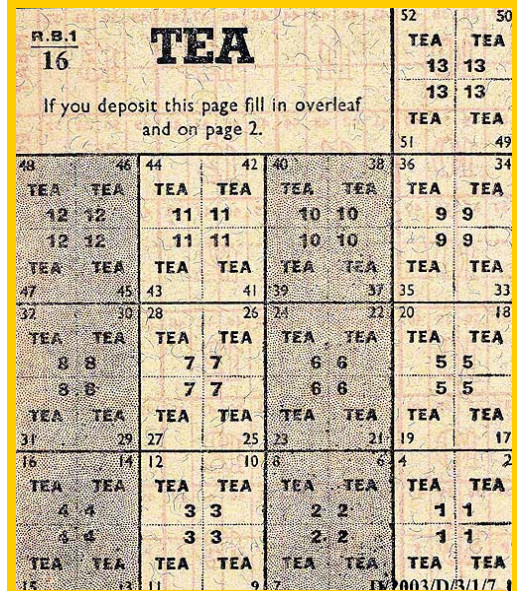
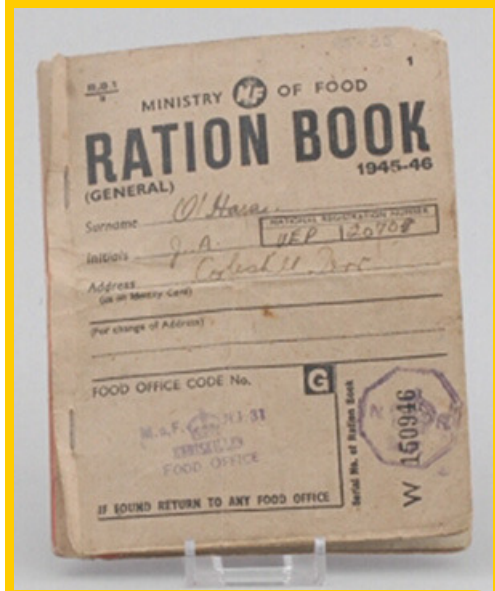
What was the purpose of rationing during the war?

What items were rationed?

How did people get rationed goods?

How did people have to change their eating patterns during the war? List some of the strange things people ate during the war.

**What do these pictures tell us about rationing during the war?
Write a caption for these pictures.**



Ration Stamp Game

For the next 24 hours you can experience what it was like to live with rationing. As you use an item, mark an 'X' through its coupon. When your coupons have been used up, you may have no more of that item.

Stamp Codes:

S = 1 Sweet

B = 1 Biscuit

F = 1 Fizzy Drink

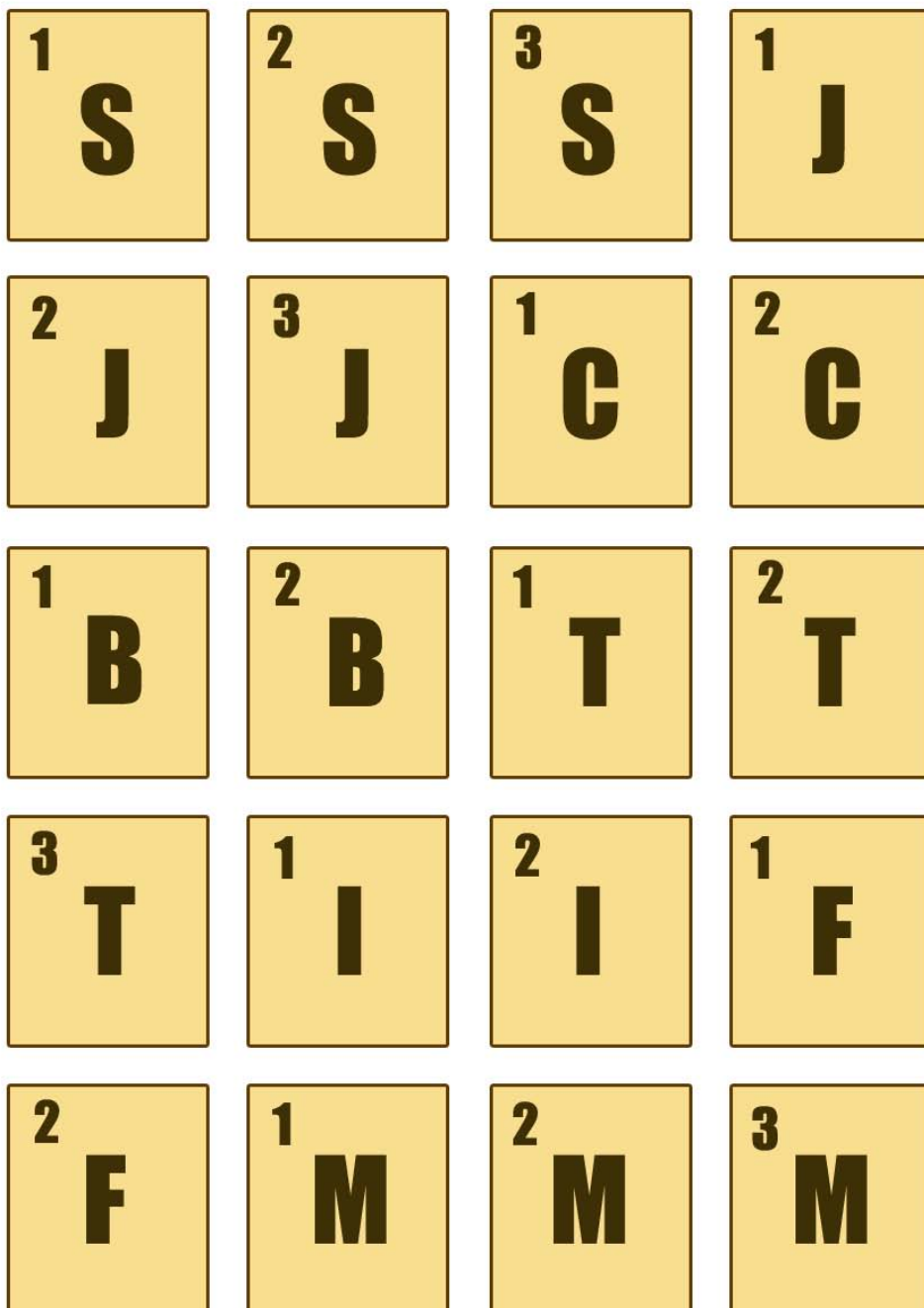
J = 1 Glass or Container of Juice

T = Half an Hour of Television

M = 1 Use of a Mobile Phone to text or call

C = 1 Packet of Crisps

I = Half an Hour of Internet



Make Do and Mend

When war broke out it was necessary for everyone, young and old, rich and poor, to live with restrictions.

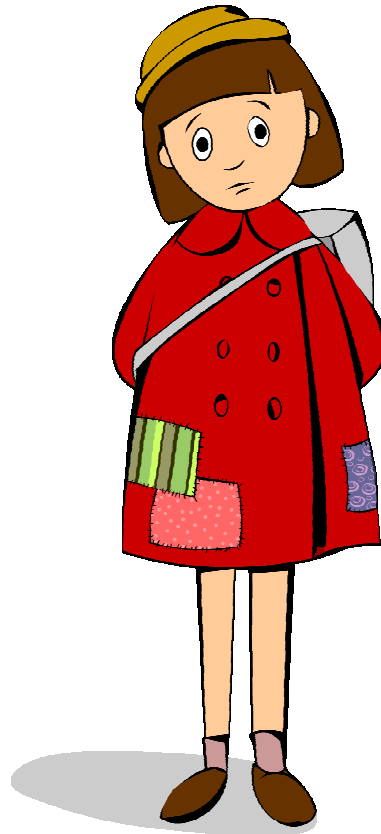
Everyday goods such as clothing and furniture became scarce and unavailable to buy, except on the black market.

For ordinary men, women and children it was a case of 'make do and mend'. Thrift and savings became an important part of the war effort.

What do you think this girl's coat is made from? Who do you think made it?

WEB LINK

Explore **MAKE DO AND MEND** then answer the questions.



In **Mary Devine's** story, Mary remembers how rationing didn't only apply to food. What did Mary use to make a new pair of curtains?

Why did she have to use that?

In **Sheila Hill's** story, Sheila remembers how resourceful her mother was. Where did her mother get material to make clothes for Sheila and her brother?

Who did Sheila's mother and other women make clothes for?

In the video **Make Do and Mend**, Nell Buckley remembers how clothes were mended to last longer and every scrap of paper was saved. How did people make their clothes go further?

The Salvage Campaign



People in Northern Ireland were encouraged to salvage items that could be recycled to make weapons and other things that could help win the war.

To **salvage** means to save items that might be useful from being thrown away.

What items are these children collecting?



Enter **SALVAGING** and listen to **Sheila Hills' Salvage Campaign**, then answer the questions.

What did children collect in Sheila's school as part of their salvage campaign?

What did children win as prizes for salvaging items?

Government posters encouraging people to salvage the most useful items

"LET'S HAVE ALL YOUR WASTE PAPER FOR SALVAGE"

It's a fact—we're not getting all the paper needed for munitions. Now what about having a real go this week? I know how busy you are but have a good old hunt round the house and put the lot out for me to collect. Make a real spring-cleaning job of it. Paper, Rags, Bones—they're wanted more than ever just now—we all know why—so make an extra effort—and keep it up, please.

Never, NEVER put your Salvage in the dustbin!

EVERY OUNCE of SALVAGE COUNTS!

1 Popular Magazine	makes	2 Interior Components for Mines
60 Large Cigarette Cartons	make	1 Shell Container
6 Daily Newspapers	make	4 Boxes for 303 Cartridges

WHEN WASTE PAPER IS REPULPED IMPURITIES ARE REMOVED. SO DO NOT DESTROY A SCRAP OF PAPER JUST BECAUSE IT IS SOILED OR DISCOLOURED

Please do not mix waste paper with tins, bones or rags. Remove all pins, clips, wires, fasteners, etc. Then put it out ready for the Salvage Collector when he calls.

PUT OUT MORE PAPER FOR MUNITIONS

Rags, Bones and Rubber are urgently wanted, too!

Issued by the Ministry of Supply

55-22

EVERY SCRAP OF SALVAGE COUNTS

Every woman should

START A RAG BAG



The need for rags is so urgent. They make uniforms, blankets; maps, surgical supplies; gun wadding, wipers for aero engines and thousands of other essential weapons of war.

Keep your rag-bag filled with scraps and bits that are themselves beyond repair and useless for repairing other clothes — remains of old clothing, dusters, towels; sacking and canvas; old clothes-line, cord and string. Dirty, oily and paint-stained rags are wanted as well as clean ones.

Put rags in a separate bundle ready for the Salvage Collector or sell them to the Rag and Bone Man.

PUT OUT MORE RAGS, ROPE & STRING FOR SALVAGE
Paper, Rubber and Bones are urgently needed, too!

ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY

"She's doing a good job"



EVERY WEEK SHE PUTS OUT PAPER · METAL · BONES

The housewife who saves and puts out waste paper, waste metal, and bones,* can be proud of the job she is doing.

All these bits and pieces are urgently required for the making of munitions. They are going to be used in the battle for victory. The success of this Salvage scheme depends on the care taken in saving every scrap and then putting these scraps out carefully to be collected by your Council. Let's see that it is done.

* Also put out food waste for pigs if collected in your district.

UP HOUSEWIVES AND AT 'EM!

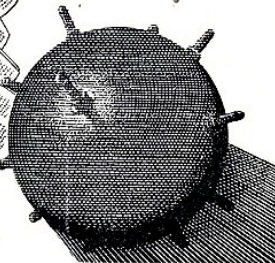
ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY

MORE WASTE PAPER WANTED — URGENTLY!

ONE WEEK'S DAILY PAPERS WILL MAKE THE INTERIOR COMPONENT OF A



MINE



Remove all pins, clips, wires, fasteners, etc., before putting your waste paper out in a separate bundle ready for the Collector.

PUT OUT MORE SALVAGE FOR MORE MUNITIONS

PAPER, RAGS, RUBBER, BONES, URGENTLY NEEDED!

ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY

4

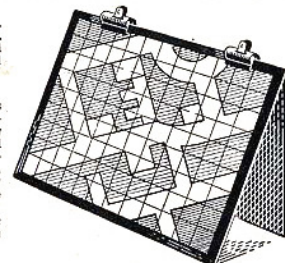
worn-out old collars



MAP FOR THE R.A.F.

RAGS make uniforms, maps, surgical supplies, gun-wadding, aero-engine wipers . . . and thousands of other essential war materials.

KEEP A RAG BAG
Put into it all scraps and bits that are themselves beyond repair and useless for repairing other clothes; remains of old clothing, dusters, towels, sacking and canvas; old clothes-line, cord and string. Dirty, oily and paint-stained rags are wanted as well as clean ones. Put rags in a separate bundle ready for collection. Or sell them to the Rag and Bone Man.



PUT OUT MORE RAGS, ROPE & STRING FOR SALVAGE

More Paper, Bones, Rubber are also needed urgently!

Issued by the Ministry of Supply

Salvaging During the War



This is what your back door should look like on collection day

Place the items which might have been salvaged into the box.

Study the Salvaging Posters for help.

Birthday Card

Metal Saucepan

T-Shirt

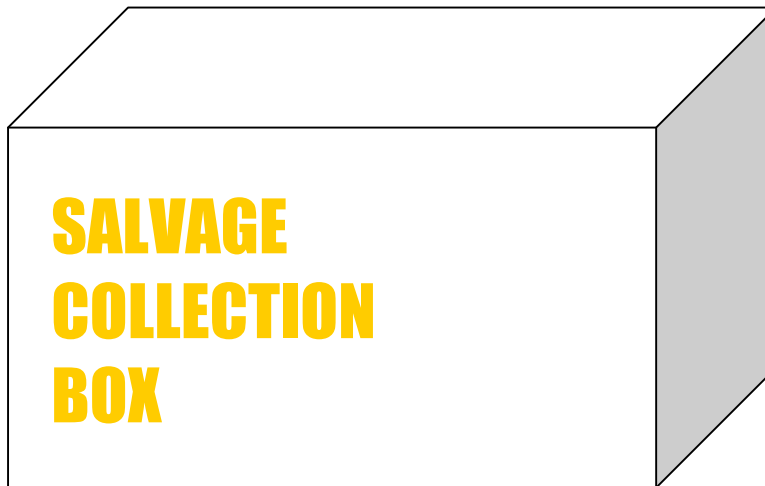
Old Bread

Chicken Bone

Banana Skin

Newspaper

Bicycle Wheel



Salvaging Today



Can you think of another word for Salvaging that is widely used today to mean collecting things which can be reused? *Hint: What does the symbol above mean?*

Are there any items which your family 'salvages' at home? What are they?

Investigate what happens to your 'salvaged' items and why people are encouraged to 'salvage' today.

Propaganda Posters



Explore **MAKE DO AND MEND, SALVAGING, SPIES & PROPAGANDA, RATIONING, DIG FOR VICTORY** and **THE HOME GUARD** before starting this activity. The pictures and information in these sections will help you to make your poster.

The government issued posters which were displayed to inform the public about how they could help win the war .

Your Task

Design a government poster to be posted up around Northern Ireland that encourages people to help win the war in one of the following ways:

- Mending old items
- Collecting items for salvaging
- Being alert for spies
- Grow own food
- Joining the Home Guard
- Joining the Womens Royal Naval Service (WRENS)



Getting Started

- Examine archive propaganda posters. Discuss the images and language used.
- Think of a catchy slogan for your chosen topic.
- You may want to use some of these key words or phrases:

enemy, ration, coupons, campaign, grow, win the war, make do and mend, Home Guard, government, careless, safety, spies, enemy, talk, salvage, dig for victory, Ulster, munitions, Wrens

Making Your Poster

1. Decide whether you want to draw your poster or use computer software Comic Life or Microsoft Word.
2. Decide what pictures you will need for your poster. You can download them from the website, take photos using a digital camera, or draw and scan your own illustrations.
3. If you are using the computer to put together your poster, follow these basic steps:
 - Make a new page
 - Import your pictures into your page and make them the size you want.
 - Add text to your poster. Remember - the more details you add, the better prepared people will be for an air raid!
 - Try out different text styles and effects.
 - Experiment with picture effects and picture borders.
 - Put your name on it!
 - Print your poster and pin it up!



Smuggling



To many people smuggling became acceptable, even though they knew they were breaking the law. Most smuggled to supply goods to family and friends.

At numerous places along the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, people brought goods across the border, meeting Customs Officers along the way.



Explore **SMUGGLING** and listen to people's experiences of smuggling, then answer the questions.

What types of things did people smuggle across the border?

Name some of the hiding places people used to bring goods past customs officials.

Why did people have to smuggle goods into Northern Ireland?

Why do you think goods were more plentiful in Ireland?

STORY

White Bags in the Moonlight



Strabane is of course right on the border with the Republic. For Paddy Gillespie, like many others, the temptation to smuggle was too great to resist.

You had to do something to make a few bob. Everything was scarce, everything was rationed - petrol coupons, clothing coupons, food coupons - everything. So the opportunity arose that when you found out that a bag of flour was four pound in Strabane and when you took it across to Lifford you got twenty pound for it. That was surely a temptation.

I remember the first car years ago that I had was an Austin 7, and I hadn't the money to buy it so I smuggled over three bags of flour and that's where I got the money to buy the Austin 7, my first car you know. So that was the only time in my life I ever actually had any money.

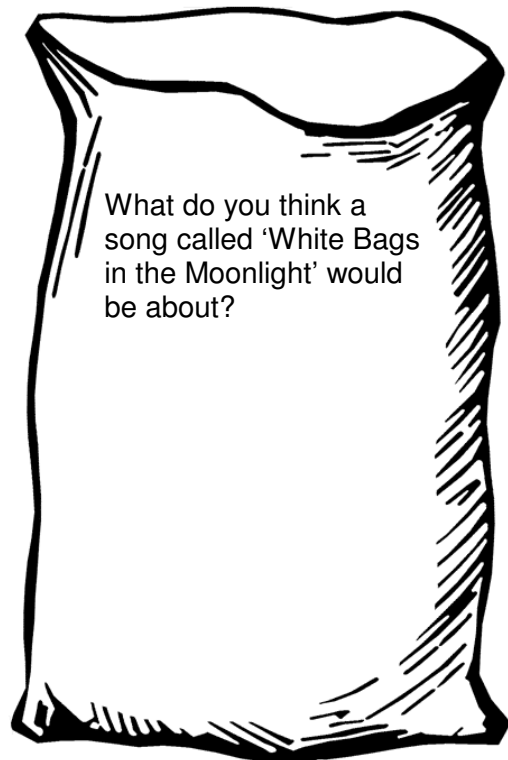
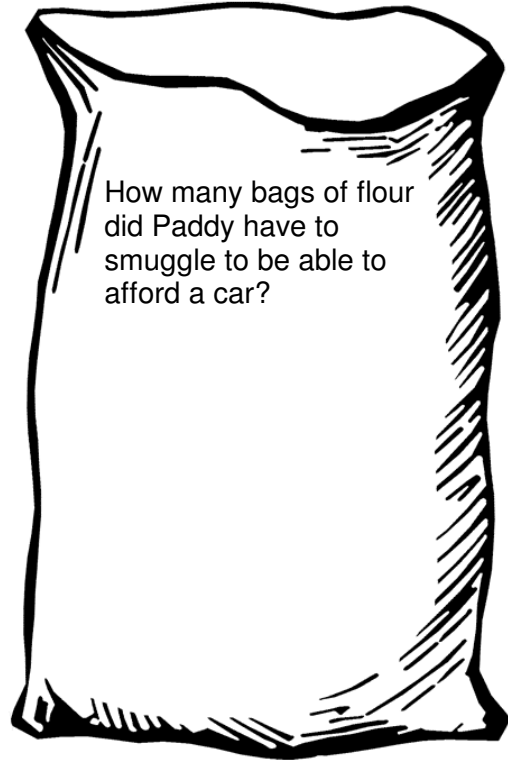
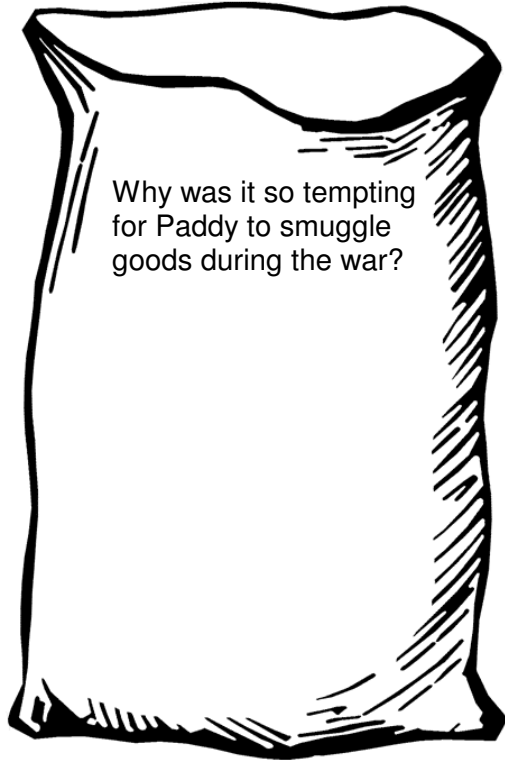
I remember an old lorry going down along the River Foyle there to smuggle over hundred-weight bags of flour. On this particular night we had about thirty hundred-weight bags of flour on and it was a lovely moonlight night which is not a good night for smuggling. So this moonlit night we went down, carried the bags up over the banking and there was two old fishing boats waiting on us with two men on each boat.

They had about seven hundred-weight or more on each boat and I watched them on this nice moonlit night and they didn't want to make too much noise with the oars because you could be heard as the sound travelled up the water.

So they rowed out very gently to the far side, to Porthall direction and I remember I said to myself, surely that's a great introduction for a song because Jimmy Kennedy wrote a song in Portstewart about Red Sails and the sunset and I looked at these boats going over and I saw the moon shining on the white bags and I said, "My goodness gracious, 'White Bags in the Moonlight' - surely somebody will make a song out of that."

White Bags in the Moonlight

Reading Comprehension Questions



Music Activity

Red Sails in the Sunset



As a class, listen to different versions of the song 'Red Sails in the Sunset' before making your own version of the song called 'White Bags in the Moonlight'. Using music software Audacity, record the new version as a podcast to share with others.

Red Sails in the Sunset was written by Jimmy Kennedy from Omagh in the 1930s. He was looking out to sea from Portstewart when he was inspired by the boats in the water. The song has been sung by famous artists such as Bing Crosby, Louis Armstrong, and Fats Domino.

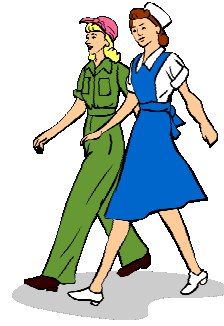
Keeping the same melody as the original song, change the song's chorus to '*White Bags in the Moonlight*'. Rewrite the rest of the song's lyrics to describe rationing and smuggling during the war. Look at the original lyrics and note which words rhyme, for example the first and third lines or the second and fourth lines. Try to keep the same rhyming pattern in your lyrics.

Red Sails in the Sunset	White Bags in the Moonlight
Red sails in the sunset, way out on the sea
Oh, carry my loved one home safely to me
She sailed at the dawning, all day I've been blue
Red sails in the sunset, I'm trusting in you
Swift wings you must borrow
Make straight for the shore
We marry tomorrow
And she goes sailing no more
Red sails in the sunset, way out on the sea
Oh, carry my loved one home safely to me
Swift wings you must borrow
Make straight for the shore
We marry tomorrow
And she goes sailing no more
Red sails in the sunset
Way out on the sea
Oh, carry my loved one
Home safely to me

Employment



Enter **EMPLOYMENT** and watch the video **N. Ireland Home Front News Report** before doing this activity. In the video you can watch archive video of wartime industry.



This woman works in a linen factory whose linen was used to make items for the war. What types of things might have been made out of the linen?



What do you think was made in this factory and who were they made for?



A group of girls at Bangor Technical College, being trained to make parts for aeroplanes, about 1942-43. Why do you think so many girls were recruited to help the war effort?



The photograph shows female munitions workers making 6 inch shells in the Maine Works, Cullybackey during 1944. How do you think they felt about their job?

Even though people were in the midst of war, the people of Northern Ireland still liked to enjoy themselves.

Who can blame them? Surely everyone should have a little fun from time to time.



As you explore **ENTERTAINMENT** try to listen out for the different ways which people were entertained during war time.

How did people entertain themselves during the war?



How does this compare to how people are entertained today? List some of your favourite forms of entertainment.



Are any of these the same or different to wartime entertainment?

War Songs

Music Activity



In the **RADIO** section, you can listen and sing along to these songs.

ARP Wardens Song

In my wee gas mask
I'm working out the plan
The wanes all run away from me
Say I'm the bogeyman

And the girls all laugh
And bring the boys to see
The nicest looking warden
in the ARP

Whenever there's a raid on,
listen to me cry
An aeroplane, an aeroplane
away up high

You may all run helter skelter
But don't come after me
You'll not get in my shelter
'cause it's far too wee.

Underneath the Spreading Chestnut Tree

Underneath the spreading chestnut tree
Dear Mister Chamberlain said to me
If you want to get your gas masks free
You must join the ARP

At the Cross Where Hitler Lost His Horse

At the Cross, at the cross
Where old Hitler lost his horse
And the buttons off his shirt
Rolled away
He was eating Paris buns
When he heard the British guns
So he and his horse rode away

Waltzing Matilda

Once a jolly swagman
camped by a billabong,
Under the shade of a coolibah tree,

And he sang as he watched
and waited by the billabong
You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me

Waltzing Matilda, waltzing Matilda
You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me

And he sang as he watched
and waited by the billabong
You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me.

Snakes & Ladders

Children didn't have television or computers during the Second World War so they played more board games and enjoyed colouring in.

To play Snakes & Ladders

- You will need a dice and small objects to use as counters.
- Take it in turns to throw the dice.
- You have to throw a six to start.
- If you land on a circle with a ladder you can go up to the circle at the top of the ladder.
- If you land on a circle with a snake you have to go down to the circle at the bottom of the snake.
- The winner is the first person to land on the finish star.

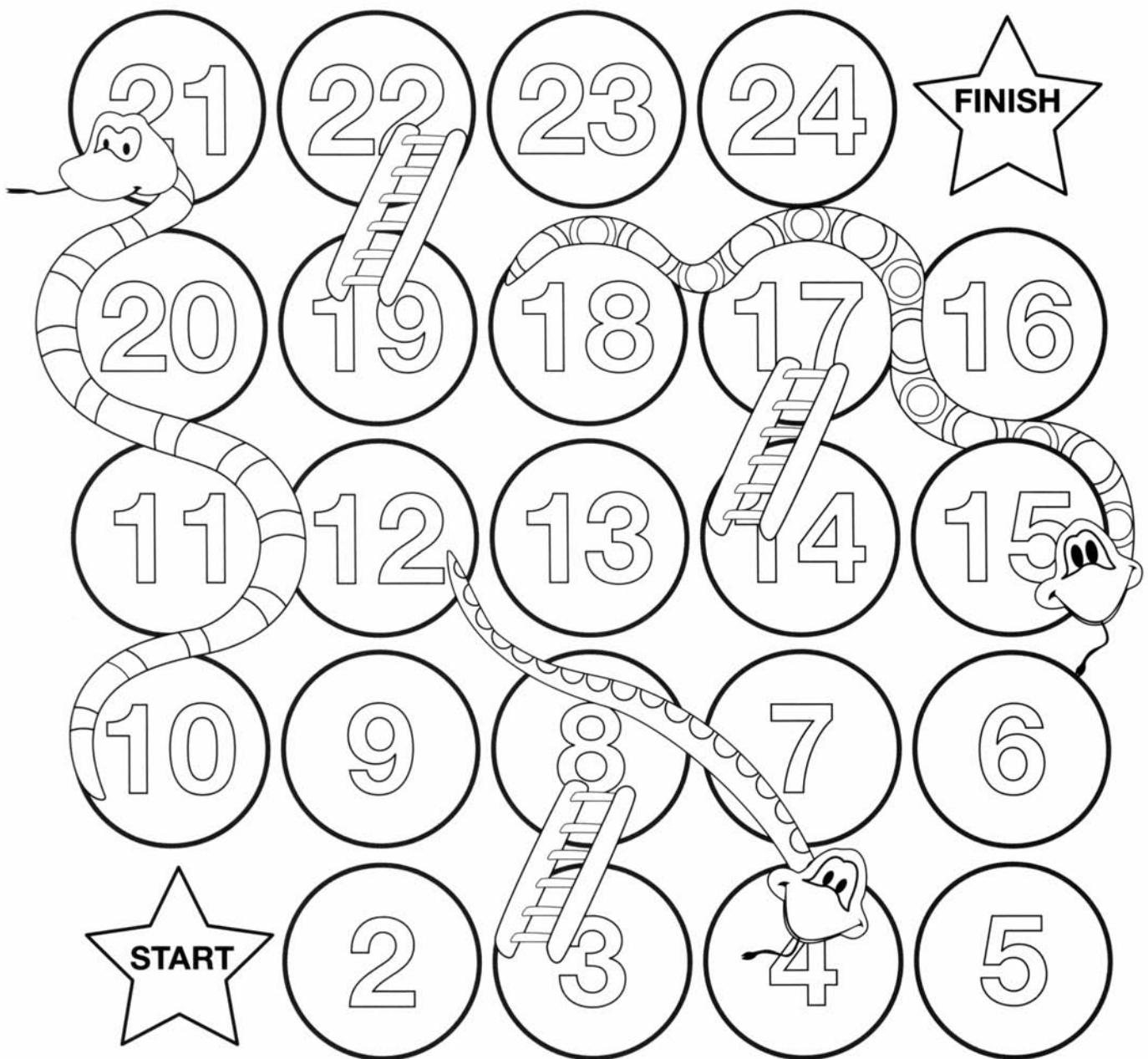
Create your own Home Front board game

- **Divide your page into 12 squares (4x3)**
- Number the squares in sequence.
- Fill in as many squares as you can with commands like these.
- Get lost in the black-out. Back two!
- Have to queue for butter. Back one!
- Forget to take your gas mask to school. Back three!
- Your aunt gives you her sweet coupons. Forward two!
- Your mother knits you a new jumper. Forward one!

Rules: Throw a six to start. Follow the command on the square you land on. First to the finish square wins.

Snakes & Ladders

Colour this in & play the game.



Home Front Word Search

W	P	R	N	A	L	A	N	A	N	A	B	G
M	G	N	I	N	O	I	T	A	R	S	N	E
B	E	B	E	K	R	U	E	M	A	I	W	N
N	D	A	L	S	O	R	A	E	L	A	O	S
G	E	A	T	K	I	R	A	G	U	S	T	A
S	A	B	C	R	K	E	G	L	O	E	M	N
E	N	A	N	O	P	U	O	C	E	S	A	D
N	L	C	M	Y	M	W	S	W	U	R	K	M
B	H	O	K	A	W	T	S	T	O	N	E	E
S	W	N	H	Y	S	I	R	R	A	I	D	N
N	Y	H	O	M	E	K	U	A	R	D	O	D

Can you find these words?

GAS MASK
BLACKOUT
SMUGGLING
RATIONING
COUPON
AIR RAID
MADE DO AND MEND

MEAT
TEA
BACON
SWEETS
SUGAR
BANANA
HOME GUARD



Home Front Quiz



Can you find these words?

1 Can you complete the five foods below that were rationed?

m _ _ _ _ s _ _ _ _ _ b _ _ _ _ _

t _ _ _ s _ _ _ _ _

2 What fruit was it impossible to get during the war?

b _ _ _ _ _

3 To share food and clothing fairly, they were r _ _ _ _ _ .

4 To buy food and clothes you needed money and also

c _ _ _ _ _ .

5 The S _ _ _ _ _ Campaign was an effort to save items from being thrown away so they could be reused to make items to help win the war.

6 People had to keep a look out for enemy S _ _ _ _ who disguised themselves to try and learn military secrets.

Glossary

Campaign	A series of activities organized to accomplish a goal, such as win the war
Civilian	A person who is not a member of a military
Coupons	A ticket that can be exchanged for a product
Entertainment	Any activity which allows people to amuse themselves in their leisure time
Home Front	The civilian population or the civilian activities of a country at war
Home Guard	A volunteer unit formed to defend the homeland while the regular army is fighting elsewhere
Make Do and Mend	A philosophy, during World War II, of repairing clothes etc that would normally be discarded due to shortages and rationing
Munitions	materials used in war, especially weapons and ammunition
Rationing	The controlled distribution of resources and scarce goods or services: it restricts how much people are allowed to buy or consume.
Recycled	The practice of sorting and collecting waste materials for new use
Royal Air Force	The airborne branch of the United Kingdom's armed forces
Royal Navy	The United Kingdom's military organisation for sea warfare and defence
Salvaging	Save something for further use: to save used, damaged, or rejected goods for recycling or further use.
Servicemen	Members of the armed forces
Smuggling	To bring goods into or out of a country without paying lawful customs charges or duties.
Spy	An agent employed by a state to get secret information, especially military information, about its enemies.