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Facts about World War Two

- One of the first and most significant changes that World War Two had on daily life was the blackout. All lights were banned after dusk to avoid aiding German bombers.
- The government told people to cope with shortages by using slogans such as, 'Dig for Victory' and 'Make Do and Mend'. Slogans were part of a whole range of demands that the government fed people through posters, leaflets, the cinema and radio.
- More than 2100 bombs were dropped on Cardiff during the Cardiff Blitz. At this time, Cardiff was the biggest coal port in the world.
- Around 15,000 Welsh men were killed in the war.
- In Wales, the largest munitions factories were in Hirwaun, Glascoed and Bridgend. They employed over 60,000 people between them, and the majority were women.
- In 1945, 70 German prisoners escaped through a tunnel from the Island Farm prisoner of war camp in Bridgend, only to be captured when their getaway car ran out of petrol!
- During the war, most people built air raid shelters in their gardens. The Anderson shelter was named after Sir John Anderson, Home Secretary during the Battle of Britain.
- The government knew that rationing had an adverse impact on morale, which is why they never rationed bread, potatoes, cigarettes or beer!

Home learning

- Make a scrapbook of World War Two images and write captions for each one. Think about how the people in the photographs may be feeling.
- Make a gas mask box using brown paper. Write and add an evacuee label that shows your name, address and school. Ask someone to take a photograph of you with it, then print it with a sepia effect to make it look authentic!
- Make do and mend! Can you revamp some of your old clothes to make new clothes? Maybe you could 'upcycle' some unwanted household items to make them useful in a whole new way! Bring them to school to show your classmates and share your ideas.
- Dig for victory! Plant a vegetable and grow it in your garden or a window box. Write a diary that tracks how it grows and bring into school when it's ready to eat!
- Imagine you are an evacuee what would you take with you? Pack a shoebox with some of your favourite things and bring it to school to share with others.
- Make a fact file about Winston Churchill.
- Visit a local war museum or memorial. Write an account of what you saw and learned.
- Search online for examples of war propaganda. Print an example and be ready to explain its message and what it is trying to persuade people to do.