



## EVACUATION

**How did it feel to be an evacuee?**

Being an evacuee was both a scary and exciting experience for many children. They left the familiarity of their own families and homes behind in London to start a new temporary life in the countryside. For many of these children, this was the first time they had left London.

**At the station**

Children had labels attached to them, as though they were parcels. They stood at railway stations not knowing where they were going nor if they would be split from brothers and sisters who had gathered with them. They felt scared about being away from their families but also excited about going to a place they had never seen before and only read about in books.



**You are a child living in a flat in Bermondsey. It is October 20th 1940 and hundreds of bombs have already been dropped in your area. You have been asked to aid the war effort by creating a 'how to' guide so people know how to keep themselves safe during this difficult, scary time.**

You might want to think about the following questions. You could use them as subheadings in your guide.

Why are we more at risk in the city?

When are bombs most likely to drop and why?

What does the warning siren sound like?

What should you do when you hear the siren?

What type of shelter might you hide out in?

What does the 'all clear' siren sound like?

**On arrival**

The children arrived in the countryside, tired, hungry and uncertain whether they would ever see their families again.

They were taken to the village hall, where they would be met by the billeting officer (the person in charge of finding them homes). A 'pick-your-own evacuee' session would then take place, where host families (the people they were going to live with) haggled over the most presentable children while the sicklier and grubbier children were left until last. It was not always a given that children from the same families would be sent to the same host family.

## EVACUEES IN WW2



## QUIZ

**1. Why did the Luftwaffe attack major cities like London during the Blitz?**


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**2. What was the barrier to building deep level air raid shelters in Bermondsey?**

- a) Not enough people to make them
- b) The soil was of a poor consistency
- c) People did not see the need to build air raid shelters in this area?

**3. What methods did the government use to encourage parents to evacuate their children to the countryside?**


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**4. What was the role of a billeting**

- a) Handed out Underground tickets so people could use them as air raid shelters
- b) Those responsible for building air raid shelters
- c) Those responsible for re-housing evacuees from the city.

**3. How did host families choose the children they would take in?**


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THE LIVES OF WW2 EVACUEES: HUNTING FOR HISTORY: BBC TEACH



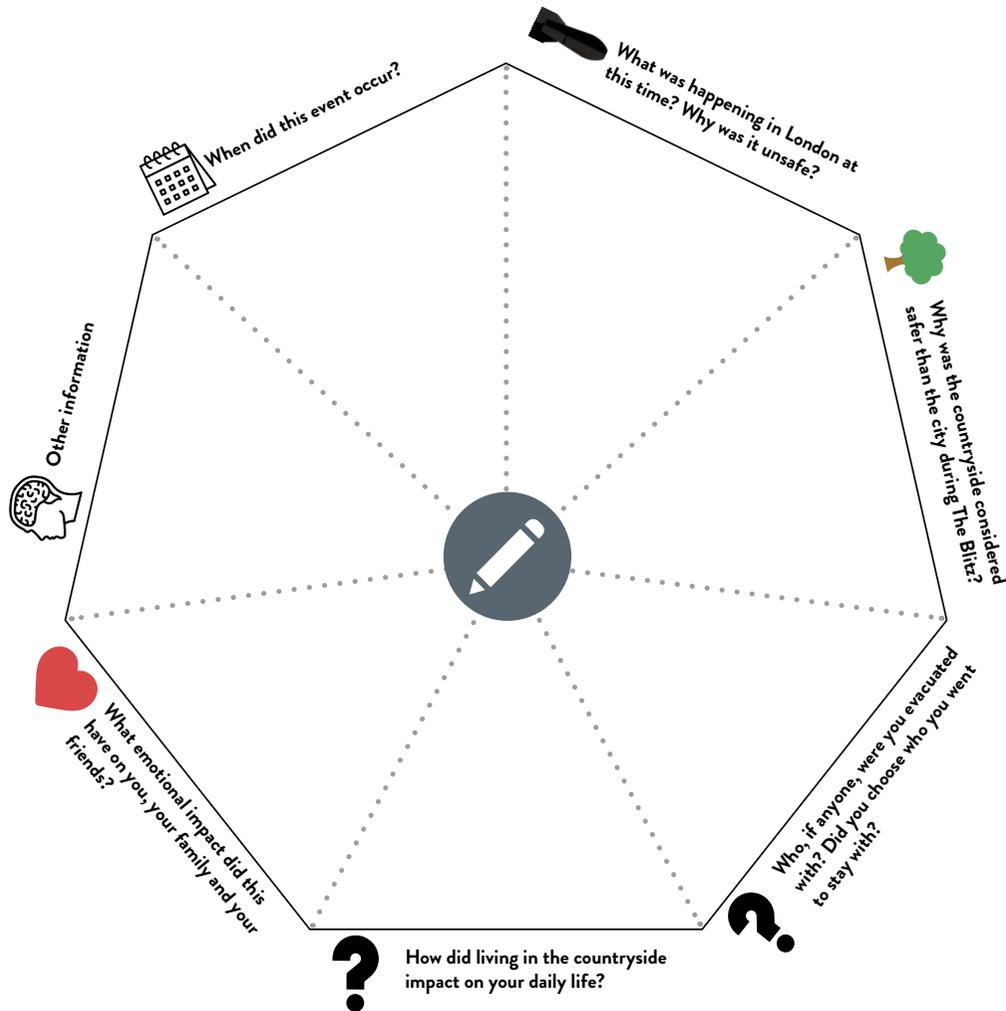
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## PLANNING A LETTER IN ROLE AS AN EVACUEE

Think about the letter you are going to write in role as a WW2 evacuee. The space below is for you to write your plan. Have a think about the key questions below to help you to guide your thinking:



## A LETTER FROM AN EVACUEE



## QUIZ

1. Which evacuation options were available for children from wealthier families?

2. How did the media present the evacuation process? Why do you think they did this?

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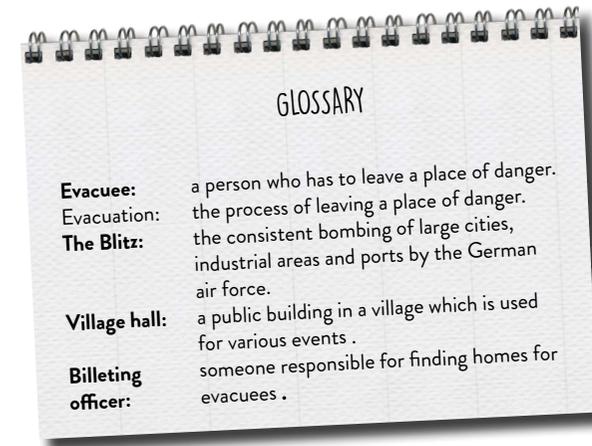
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## WRITING A LETTER IN ROLE AS AN EVACUEE

Look back at your plan. Today, you will be writing a letter in role as an evacuee. Use the self assessment guidelines below to help you write your letter.

## SELF ASSESSMENT



I have explained what The Blitz was and how it impacted London architecturally

I have explained the social impact of The Blitz on families

I have explained the reasons behind the decision to evacuate children to the countryside

I have empathised with a child evacuee and considered how they may have felt during The Blitz and subsequent evacuation.