

Lesson 5 - Roles in the war – research family/local history

Objective:

The aim of this lesson is for children to identify various jobs that would have existed during the war and identify whether these were jobs that men would have done or women would have done. To understand the way in which the war changed attitudes to work. To research their own family history to see if they have any links to WWII to better contextualise the event.

Resources:

Venn-Diagram worksheet:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=17yRp7E3sYguAcC_31txuu1RtZw2cqw2j

Overview:

In this lesson we will recap some of the characters we met in Clare's story. In smaller groups the class will then have to discuss what jobs existed during the war years. They will have to sort these into a venn-diagram, deciding which are jobs that men would have done, which are jobs women would have done, and which were both. They can then discuss which job they would have liked to have done and why.

Finally the class will be left with a take home assignment to speak to friends and relatives and find a personal story of WWII from their own family history. They can write this down and bring it in to share with the rest of the class.

To begin the lesson, please press play on the video. When you see this symbol, press pause.



Text of the video

Clare: Here are some of the characters we met in my story, Watson (we see him in the show) Montgomery (we see him in the show) and Otto (we see him in the show) People did all sorts of jobs during the war. In groups can you put all the jobs into the venn diagram on your table? Which jobs were men doing during the war and which jobs were women doing during the war and which were both? Think of the people I met in my story but also bring your own knowledge

You should now pause the video.

The video should remind the group about a few of the characters from the show and their jobs, but there are plenty more to remember. The group can also bring in their own knowledge from the war years to come up with as many jobs as they can that would have existed during the war years.

You will find a blank venn-diagram attached as a resource for this video. You can print these out for the class.

You may want to have a discussion with the group about pre-war attitudes towards gender and work, and whether the group think this is fair or not. You can also talk about how the war would have changed these attitudes. Once the class has filled out their venn-diagrams then please press play to see the next part of the video.

Text of the video

You've come up with so many jobs. Which do you think you'd have done? Get into pairs and tell your partner which job you would choose and why.

You should now pause the video. In pairs, pupils can discuss which job they would have chosen and why. This can be presented back to the rest of the class. Afterwards, please press play for the final part of the video.

Text of the video

We've researched our own family history and found out what our relatives were doing during world war two:

Michael – My great uncle was a pilot

Hattie – My Grandma worked in a munitions factory making bombs

Stuart – my grandparents weren't old enough to have a job so they were evacuated to a farm and helped out there.

Your task is to go home and find out your own family history. Write down what you find out to make sure that history remembers it, and if you would like to, bring it in and share it with the class!

We have found that many children we have worked with already have an idea about grandparents' or great grandparents' involvement in the war, but sometimes their understanding is a little bit muddled. This is your class's chance to go away and find out a story that is pertinent to their own family history. We call this a 'testimony' or an 'oral story'. The relative may not be alive any more but this is a way of demonstrating how stories from history can be remembered and passed on. They may want to bring in other artifacts if they have them to share with the rest of the class such as medals, diaries, etc.

This is the end of this lesson.