

Rationing cartoon

Here is a newspaper cartoon about rationing.



Rationing cartoon

Age range

- Years 3/4 (SP4/5).
- Years 5/6 (SP6/7).

Resources

Copies of the worksheet. Extra sheets of paper and pens.

Using the worksheet

As rationing wore on into the late 1940s and early 1950s, people began to lose the wartime spirit that had kept them going through the war. In fact, after the war, Britain's economy got even worse. Factories had to retool for peacetime and this took time and money; Britain was heavily in debt to the US for aid during wartime; domestic food production had not improved and Europe's food production had not recovered – so Britain and the US had to help feed their former enemies to prevent starvation and chaos there; and to top it all off, the weather was very cold.

This cartoon shows the way that the government was under pressure to do something to improve people's situation.

You may want to begin by explaining to students the meaning of the word economy – that it means the way finances are in the country, for example, house prices, food prices, number of people who are employed, amount of yearly wages – all of these things are part of the economy. You can then explain that in 1947 people had jobs, but there was not much food or other goods for people to buy, so the economy was not good and people were suffering. The people in this cartoon are “snowed in” by the bad economy – they can't buy anything to make their lives better. You can then ask students to describe what they think is happening in the cartoon.

Younger students

You may like to ask the students directed questions about the cartoon. Here are a few examples:

1. What year is the cartoon about? (1947 – the year on the bus).
2. Why are the people on the bus sad? (The economy is bad – there is not much food or other goods.)
3. What is falling from the sky? (A plan to make things better.)
4. Why is the bus conductor smiling? (He can see the plan to make things better.)

Outcomes

The students can:

- Understand that things were difficult in 1947.
- Understand what an economy is.
- Interpret a cartoon.

Older students

You may have the students answer the directed questions. Students might like to work in groups to describe what they think is happening in the cartoon. They may like to draw a cartoon of their own about rationing.

Outcomes

- Understand that things were difficult in 1947.
- Understand what an economy is.
- Interpret a cartoon.