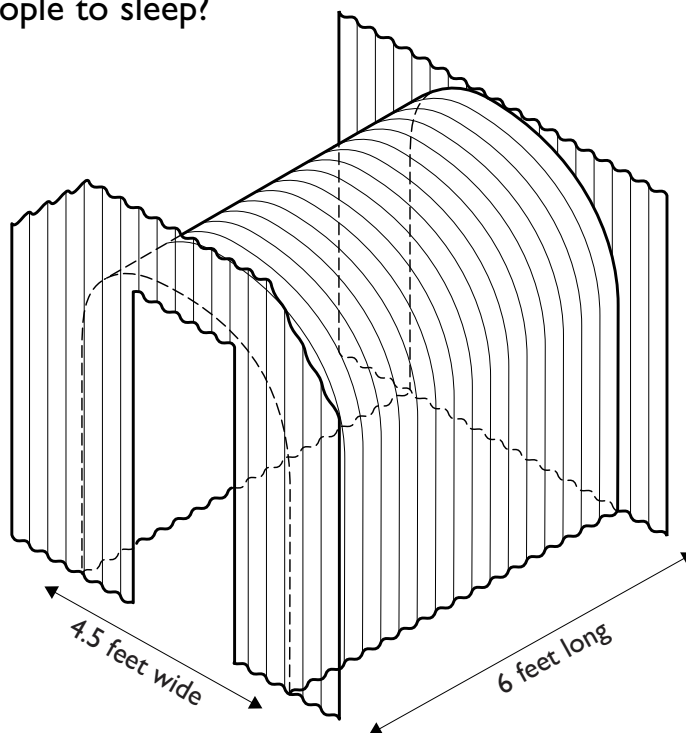



An Anderson shelter

Here is a plan for an Anderson shelter.

Pretend that you and your family are going to spend the night inside the shelter. Make a list of 5 to 10 things that families in 1940 would want in the shelter. Draw the things in on the plan, or describe them in words. Remember that you will need somewhere to sleep and some light. Is there enough room for everything you would like to have and for people to sleep?



1. What things would you bring with you in 1940?



.....

.....

.....

2. How many people do you think could sleep comfortably in this shelter?



Teacher's sheet

Based on **pages 22 and 23** of *Children in the Second World War*

An Anderson shelter

Age range

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

Resources

Copies of the worksheet.

Using the worksheet

You may like to use this activity as a cross-curricular exercise with your work in Design and Technology. Students could build their own Anderson shelter out of corrugated card and other materials. During the height of the Blitz, many families spent the evenings after dinner in their shelter. You may like to begin the exercise by asking students what things they do in the evening. You could make a list of things such as: shower, brush teeth, sleep, watch TV, play, read, etc. You could ask the students how they think people did things like use the bathroom in Anderson shelters (they used a bucket, or went into their house).

If there is room, students could also mark out the dimensions of an Anderson shelter in chalk, either in the classroom or outside in the playground. They could then mark out the dimensions of objects they would need in the shelter to get a better idea of how cramped it was.

You may also want to remind students that many of these shelters were damp inside and flooded easily. They may seem cosy, but they were not comfortable.

Younger students

Some of the students may need to be reminded of the things that they would not have had in 1940, such as TV, computers, electric lights, mobile phones, etc. You could also ask students to make a list of things they think other members of the family might like in the shelter.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Understand the differences in things available for entertainment and living between 1940 and today.
- Appreciate how uncomfortable an Anderson shelter was and how important it was for people to stay safe.

Older students

Students could build a full-size mock-up of an Anderson shelter out of cardboard or paper, and bring things to put in it. They could then spend a few minutes in the shelter and write about how it might feel to spend all night in a shelter, with no heat, and sometimes filled with water.

If they are drawing a shelter outline with chalk, students could measure items for the shelter from home and then draw the items to their correct dimensions inside the chalk outline.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Understand the differences in things available for entertainment and living between 1940 and today.
- Appreciate how uncomfortable an Anderson shelter was and how important it was for people to stay safe.
- Make and use basic measurements.