

What to take for evacuation

Imagine that you are to be evacuated. Below is a list of things that you are allowed to take. At home, put together the items on the list, and place them in a small rucksack or bag. You will not have a gas mask, so put in a 1 lb bag of flour or sugar (a child's gas mask weighed about 1 lb). Remember to leave space for a packet of food. Wear the coat and put on your thickest, warmest footwear. That is all you are allowed to take, and you do not know how long you will be away. Think about how you feel and then answer the questions below.

The full list of items children can bring with them for evacuation:

Boys: 1 vest, 1 pair of pants, 1 pair of trousers, 2 pairs of socks, handkerchiefs, 1 pullover or jersey

Girls: 1 vest, 1 pair of knickers, 1 petticoat, 2 pairs of stockings, handkerchiefs, 1 slip, 1 blouse, 1 cardigan

Both: Overcoat or Mackintosh, comb, towel, soap, face-cloth, toothbrush, boots or shoes, plimsolls, child should wear their warmest shoes.

Food for the trip: Sandwiches, packets of nuts and seedless raisins, dry biscuits, barley sugar, apple, orange.

ALL children should have their Gas Masks

1. Is your rucksack very heavy? Could you carry the rucksack very far?



2. You probably have a little space in a pocket or two to take some small personal objects that are not on the list. What would you take?



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3. How long do you think these clothes will last? What other clothes would you need?



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Teacher's sheet

Based on **pages 26 to 29** of *Children in the Second World War*

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Age range

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

Resources

Copies of the worksheet. Examples of the things on the leaflet. If available, a gas mask.

Using the worksheet

This is an opportunity for students to see for themselves what it was like to be an evacuee. They might be surprised at the small amount of things children were allowed to bring. You may like to remind students that parents could send packages of clothes and other things to the evacuees but they usually had very little space in their 'foster house' for personal items.

You may also want to discuss how the evacuees might have felt to be sent away from home with only this small rucksack of personal belongings and clothes.

Younger students

You may find it more appropriate, rather than have students pack their own rucksacks, to bring in the items on the list and have students take turns trying on the rucksack and seeing how much space was left inside for personal items.

Let the students answer the questions on their own. Students could discuss their answers in class the following day.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Know about what evacuees were allowed to bring with them.
- Understand a little about what it was like to be an evacuee.

Older students

Let the students work through the sheet on their own then review their work in a discussion. Students may want to take photos of themselves in their evacuee outfits. Students could also discuss what things they would miss and what they would find useful to have with them if they were an evacuee.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Know about what evacuees were allowed to bring with them.
- Understand a little about what it was like to be an evacuee.