

How did people's experiences differ during World War 2?

Very Important Vocabulary:

Appeasement: The policy of making concessions to an aggressor to avoid conflict.

The Blitz: The intense bombing campaign by Germany against the UK during World War II, particularly targeting London.

Anderson shelter: A type of air-raid shelter used in the UK during WWII, typically installed in gardens.

Morrison shelter: A type of indoor air-raid shelter used in British homes during WWII, designed to protect families from bomb blasts.

Billeted: Assigned or housed in temporary accommodation in civilian homes.
Urban: Related to cities or towns.

Rural: Related to the countryside or areas outside cities and towns.

Conscription: Mandatory enlistment into the military service, also known as a draft.

During World War II, people took several measures to protect themselves during air raids. Cities established numerous air raid shelters, including communal shelters in public spaces and Anderson shelters in private gardens. Anderson shelters, made of corrugated steel, were half-buried in gardens and covered with earth to provide protection from bomb blasts.



The origins of the war can be traced back to the Treaty of Versailles, which ended World War I and imposed harsh penalties and territorial losses on Germany. Economic instability and political unrest in the 1920s and 1930s facilitated the rise of totalitarian regimes in Germany, Italy, and Japan.



World War II began on September 1, 1939, when Nazi Germany, led by Adolf Hitler, invaded Poland. The invasion prompted Britain and France to declare war on Germany on September 3, 1939, marking the official start of the conflict.



Rationing during World War II had a significant impact on the daily lives of people in Britain. Introduced in 1940, it aimed to ensure fair distribution of scarce resources such as food, clothing, and fuel. Each person received a ration book containing coupons that had to be presented when purchasing rationed items, ensuring everyone received their fair share.



World War II significantly transformed the roles of women, as they stepped into positions traditionally held by men who had gone to fight in the war. Women took on a wide range of jobs, including working in munitions factories, shipyards, and other industrial settings vital to the war effort.



During World War II, evacuees from urban areas across Britain, including London and other major cities, were sent to the South West countryside for safety from bombing raids. The experiences of these evacuees varied widely. For many children, leaving their homes and families behind was a daunting and unsettling experience. They were often billeted with host families who provided them with accommodation, food, and care.