

DUNKESWELL WAR STORIES



Session Three Children in the War

MAIN OBJECTIVE

To give children an overview of what it was like living as a child and growing up during WWII, focussing on evacuation, games and school.

LESSON PLAN

Section	Summary of Activities	Resources/ Materials	Time
Introduction	<i>Activity 1</i> Recap of what we learnt in Session Two and introducing the idea of being a child in WWII	Paper Pencils or pens Whiteboard and markers OR interactive whiteboard	10
Growing Up in Dunkeswell	<i>Activity 2</i> Show the children the short films about people's childhood memories and talk through them as a class	FILMS: Dad Away (3.1) Guinea Pigs (3.2) Parties (3.3) War Helpers (3.4) Other Pastimes (3.5)	15
Dear Diary	<i>Activity 3</i> Ask children to write a week's worth of short diary entries	Worksheet 3: A Child's Wartime Diary	25
Conclusion	<i>Activity 4</i> Share the diary entries with the class and recap what has been discussed in Activity 2	Paper Pencils or pens	10

ACTIVITIES

Activity 1 – Introduction

- Quickly discuss the previous lesson with the class to see how much they remember

Activity 2 – Childhood Memories

- Show the children the short films with Dunkeswell residents, talking about their children memories and the games they played
 - **3.1 [Dad Away](#)**
 - **3.2 [Guinea Pigs](#)**
 - **3.3 [Parties](#)**
 - **3.4 [War Helpers](#)**
 - **3.5 [Other Pastimes](#)**
- After each film discuss the memories with the class. Comparisons could be made with modern life, in terms of the amount of free time children had, how little they were supervised by their parents, and how they relied on imagination in the absence of proper equipment or technology.

Activity 3 – Dear Diary

- Give each child a copy of **Worksheet 3** and ask them to write a diary entry, one for each day of the week, explaining what they would have done with their friends after school if they had lived in Dunkeswell during WWII.
- If necessary the films can be replayed while this activity is taking place to refresh the children's memories.

Activity 4 – Conclusion

- Invite the class to share their diary entries and discuss the contents.
- EITHER recap with the children about being a child in the war
- OR hold a quick quiz along these lines.

WORKSHEETS

Worksheet 3: A child's wartime diary

RESOURCES

- 3.1 FILM: [Dad Away](#)
- 3.2 FILM: [Guinea Pigs](#)
- 3.3 FILM: [Parties](#)
- 3.4 FILM: [War Helpers](#)
- 3.5 FILM: [Other Pastimes](#)

WORKSHEET 3
A Child's Wartime Diary

Name:

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

This teachers' pack was created as part of the *Dunkeswell War Stories* project in conjunction with staff and pupils at Broadhembury Primary School. *Dunkeswell War Stories* is an interactive online resource featuring first hand memories of the American airbase and village life during the Second World War. It was developed by the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership and produced by Dream Machine Media Ltd.

Find *Dunkeswell War Stories* at www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk

Funded by: Heritage Lottery Fund; Devon County Council; the discretionary fund of Cllr Paul Diviani; Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership; Dunkeswell Parish Council.