

DUNKESWELL WAR STORIES



Session Four The US Navy in Dunkeswell

MAIN OBJECTIVE

To show children the experiences of numerous US Navy personnel stationed on a British base at Dunkeswell, putting them in the position of Americans coming to Britain on a long-term basis to fight in WWII.

LESSON PLAN

Section	Summary of Activities	Resources/ Materials	Time
Introduction	<i>Activity 1</i> Recap of what we learnt in Session Three and introducing the American presence at Dunkeswell	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 US servicemen talking about coming to Dunkeswell and serving in Britain during WWII	FILMS: 4.1 Base Food 4.2 Flying In 4.3 Night Hunting 4.4 Successful Mission	15
Dear Diary	<i>Activity 3</i> Ask children to write a letter from a US serviceman to his family and friends	Worksheet 4: Writing Home	25
Conclusion	<i>Activity 4</i> Share the letters 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 US Navy veterans talking about coming to Dunkewell and what life was like on the base. After each film discuss the memories with the class:
 - **4.1 [Base Food](#)**
 - **4.2 [Flying In](#)**
 - **4.3 [Night Hunting](#)**
 - **4.4 [Successful Mission](#)**

Activity 3 – Writing Home

- Give each child a copy of **Worksheet 4** and ask them to write a letter from a US serviceman home to his family and friends back in America, using the content of the videos as a guide. The letter could contain the following:
 - Saying that they had arrived safely after a long journey
 - Describing the living quarters and the base
 - Saying how different England felt compared to the USA
 - Talking about the food they ate
- 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 4: Writing Home

RESOURCES

4.1 [Base Food](#)

4.2 [Flying In](#)

4.3 [Night Hunting](#)

4.4 [Successful Mission](#)

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

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