

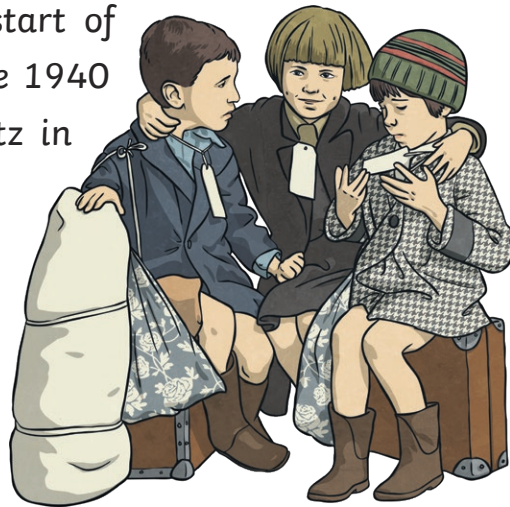
Evacuation

During World War II, many people were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. In total, over 3.5 million people were evacuated during the war.

Most of the evacuees were children but other evacuees included mothers with very young children, pregnant women, disabled people and teachers and helpers to look after the children.

Evacuation happened in distinct waves, with the first wave of evacuations beginning on the 1st September 1939, two days before Britain officially declared war on Germany. Other waves were at the start of the Battle of Britain in June 1940 and at the start of the Blitz in September 1940.

On evacuation day, children travelled with their teacher or helper by train to their destination. They had to wear an identity label and



take their gas mask, ration book, identity card and food for the journey. Many children also took a suitcase containing clothes and other personal items.

When they reached their destination, billeting officers were responsible for arranging for children to stay with host families. For many children, this involved being selected from a line by their host. This was an upsetting experience for some children, who felt unwanted or rejected.

Many children were evacuated to countryside towns and villages in Britain but some were evacuated overseas and lived with host families in places as far away as Australia and Canada.

Question

Describe two ways that the text gives the impression that evacuation was a large-scale operation. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. [3 marks]



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Answers

Acceptable points:

- AP1** A lot of people were evacuated.
- AP2** Teachers and helpers were required to look after the children.
- AP3** The evacuation occurred in distinct waves.
- AP4** Children were required to wear identity labels.
- AP5** Children were sent to different countries around the world.

Award 3 marks for two acceptable points, at least one with evidence, e.g.

- Evacuation is made to sound large-scale because a lot of people were involved. The text says that over 3.5 million people were evacuated. It was such a big event that not everyone could be evacuated at the same time. [AP1 + evidence and AP3]
- The text says that children were required to wear identity labels. This must have been because there were so many children that no one could keep track of them. Also, not every child could stay in the UK because there were so many of them, so they were sent to places as far away as Australia and Canada. [AP4 + evidence and AP5 + evidence]

Award 2 marks for either two acceptable points, or one acceptable point with evidence, e.g.

- It must have been large-scale because teachers were needed for the children, which implies that it would be happening for a long time. [AP2 + evidence]
- Evacuation couldn't happen all at the same time and children were sent all around the world. [AP3 and AP5]

Award 1 mark for one acceptable point, e.g.

- Lots of people were evacuated. [AP1]
- Children were sent to places around the world. [AP5]



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