

**Lesson Objectives:**

- 1) Students will discover key information about the Coventry Blitz, it's impact upon the city and understand more of the city's local history
- 2) Students will learn key terminology and concepts relating to World War 2

**Links to National Curriculum**

- Gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history; between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social history; and between short and long-term timescales.
- Understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed

**Resources**

- **Coventry Blitz Powerpoint**
- **Air raid siren MP3 file – downloaded from LIA website**
- **350g sweets weighed in bags as well as other pre-weighed food to represent quantities of rationed food**
- **Measuring tape to represent dimensions of an Anderson Shelter (6 feet (1.8 m) high, 4.5 feet (1.4 m) wide, and 6.5 feet (2.0 m) long)**
- **Post-it notes for student responses to Slide 8**

**Additional Notes**

**Prep**

- This is focused on Coventry's experience of the war. For other schools it may require some context.
- Download the MP3 so it plays automatically on Slide 8 of the PowerPoint
- Consider how you could represent the dimensions of an Anderson shelter to your class. You could 'build' one or mark out the dimensions in your classroom. Use adults and children to represent a 'family'.

**Lesson Plan:**

1. Settle students down and have the Powerpoint ready to go. Use slide 1 – 3 to generate debate in the class. Interrogate student responses using open questioning – ask them 'why?'
2. On Slide 8 use the Anderson shelter in your classroom to illustrate the dimensions. Get adults and students sat in the space – ask them to describe how it feels. Focus on describing words.
3. When you arrive at Slide 9 and 10 get students thinking about the kinds of toys children had at the time and compare them to their toys today. Also show them the pre-weighed sweet ration – compare it to how many sweets they eat today. This is an opportunity for them to understand the difference between their lives now and the lives of children during the war.
4. During the Quiz consider how best to carry out this task – think about tables vs individuals.
5. For the final activity think about how to make this accessible to all students – try to ensure they use the first hand accounts on the slide as well as the information they've been given during the lesson. More able students can annotate drawings and stretch them by getting them to use adjectives and adverbs which fosters cross-curricular links

**Cross-curricular links/Extension Tasks:**

**Literacy** – Think about new words used in this activity which can be used to extend student's vocabulary and improve literacy including 'blitz' 'Anderson Shelter', etc. Display these prominently in classroom and use in weekly spelling tests.

**Creative Writing** – Use activity as a stimulus for students to write a piece of creative writing based on the blitz including first hand accounts of an air raid, letters to WW2 era children, etc.

**Numeracy** – use WW2 rationing as a stimulus for numeracy work and get students to weigh out rations for families. You can find out more about wartime rationing [here](#).

**Art/Technology** – Students can work individually/in teams to build model/full scale Anderson shelters.

**ICT** – If you school has access to Tablets then load our free [AR App](#) and download the AR targets from our website so students can see Fred’s story come to life! Or use our free [Serious Games](#) to let students explore Fred’s inventions and learn in a fun, dynamic way!

**Notes**

This lesson plan has been produced by The Lanchester Interactive Archive. For more information please visit our [website](#).



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