The Second World War

Look carefully at each image in the photo pack and answer the questions linked to it.

Photo 1



What do you think is happening in this picture?

How do you think the people in this picture were feeling at the time?

Photo 2



What do you think the man in this picture is doing?

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What clues are there in the picture that make you think this?

Photo 3



Why do you think this officer is receiving a medal from this general?

How do you think the soldier may be feeling and why?

Photo 4



What do you think is happening in this picture?

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Where do you think these children are and what do you think they are doing?

Photo 5



What do you think is being manufactured in this picture?

What clues are there in the picture to make you think this?

Photo 6



What do you think the airmen in the picture are discussing?

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What clues are there in the picture to make you think this?

Photo 7



Where in the world do you think this picture was taken? Why?

Photo 8



Why do you think food was being collected in Britain during the war?

What clues are there in the picture to make you think this?

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The Second World War **Answers**

Photo 1



What do you think is happening in this picture?

Responses will vary.

This is a photograph showing Aldwych underground station in London in May 1940. It was used as an underground bomb shelter during the war. Local people would sleep in shelters like this and then go to work or home in the morning. People carried blankets with them to make themselves comfortable for the night. They passed the time by knitting, chatting with others or sleeping. The photograph also shows air raid wardens, shown with 'ARP' on their helmets, on the station platform.

How do you think the people in this picture were feeling at the time?

Responses will vary but children may comment that people were: tired of having to leave their homes each night; feeling chatty; wanting to relax; worried about the bombing; used to it as a way of life during the Blitz.

Photo 2



What do you think the man in this picture is doing?

Responses will vary.

This is a photograph showing a man looking through rubble around an Anderson shelter in Norwich, England. Children may question if he is looking at the rubble of his own home or that of a friend or neighbour.

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What clues are there in the picture that make you think this?

The man is surrounded by rubble which looks to be from the contents and building materials of a house. An Anderson shelter was usually in the garden of a house and there are houses still visible in the background, meaning this is probably a street which has been affected by bombing.

Photo 3



Why do you think this officer is receiving a medal from this general?

Responses will vary.

This is a photograph showing Subedar (Officer) Ganpat Patil receiving the Military Cross from General Sir Claude Auchinleck. The Military Cross is granted for acts of great bravery during active service in the British Army.

How do you think the soldier may be feeling and why?

Children may describe feelings of pride and happiness for receiving the medal, as well as sadness for friends he may have lost during battles.

Photo 4



What do you think is happening in this picture?

Responses may vary.

This is a photograph showing evacuated children wearing their gas masks in Montgomeryshire, Wales. Everyone in the country was given a gas mask at the start of the war.

Where do you think these children are and what do you think they are doing?

Children may answer that these could be children who have been evacuated from British cities and ports and sent to the countryside for their safety because of bombing raids. They may be playing or being taken for a walk with their school as they look like they are different ages.

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Photo 5



What do you think is being manufactured in this picture?

Responses may vary.

This is a photograph showing women working in an electrical factory during the war, making parts for the war effort. This photograph shows a factory in the Midlands, England. Before the war started in 1939, this was a shoe factory.

What clues are there in the picture to make you think this?

There are many women of different ages, all making things. It looks like there are wires on the tables which suggests they might be making electrical equipment. There is only one man in the photo who may be in charge as he is supervising the work that is being done. The majority of younger men were enlisted in the armed forces during the war.

Photo 6



What do you think the airmen in the picture are discussing?

Responses may vary.

This is a photograph showing a group of Czechoslovakian airmen working as part of the RAF during the Second World War, in Norfolk, England. The men are looking at a map and there are bombs in the photograph so they are possibly discussing a bombing raid. The bombs shown weighed 250lbs. The aeroplane behind them is a Vickers Wellington.

What clues are there in the picture to make you think this?

References may be made to the bombs, the map, the airmen in uniform and the war plane behind the men.

Photo 7



Where in the world do you think this picture was taken? Why?

Responses may vary.

This is a photograph showing a New Zealand battalion preparing their anti-tank gun for a manoeuvre in Egypt. Children may explore different theatres locations of the Second World War which could fit the barren, desert background of this picture. The soldiers are wearing clothing which suggests a hotter climate.

Photo 8



Why do you think food was being collected in Britain during the war?

Responses may vary.

This is a picture showing a pig bin in London during the Second World War. These bins were shared among streets and were used for collecting food scraps which would then be fed to pigs. During the war, food was rationed and food waste was strictly forbidden. Even food scraps were useful to feed animals like pigs.

What clues are there in the picture to make you think this?

References may be made to the little girl holding scraps of food, to her placing kitchen scraps into a large bin labelled 'waste food' and to the name of the bin (Pig Food).

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