World War II: The Role of Women

Aim:

Construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection of relevant historical information by learning about the importance and significance of the role of women during World War II.

I can find out about women's wartime jobs and describe what they entailed in detail.

Success Criteria:

I can say what type of jobs women did during World War II.

I can compare the roles of women and men in World War II.

I can describe key details of a woman's wartime job.

I can design my own propaganda poster.

I can explain how the role of women differed before, during and after the war.

Preparation:

Resources:

Lesson Pack

Offer of Employment Letters - 1 per child

Job Description Activity Sheet - 1 per child

Training Post Labels (if required)

Propaganda Poster Activity Sheet - 1 per pair

Role of Women Pre and Post World War II Activity Sheet - 1 per child

Access to the Internet and/or information books for research

Key/New Words:

women, factory, munitions, Women's Land Army, Women's Voluntary Service (WVS), Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF), Women's Royal Navy Service (WRNS), Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS)

Prior Learning:

Children will have learnt key facts about World War II in Lessons 1, 2 and 3.

Learning Sequence



The Role of Women- Pre-World War II: In groups, children discuss what the role of woman might have been in the early 1930s and how it compared to the role of men. Feedback responses. Read the information on the Lesson Presentation and then ask children to think how they think men and women at the time felt about the gender roles. Look for children who can recognise and explain the key differences in the role of men and women before the war.





Changing Roles: Ask children to suggest reasons why the role of women was about to change with the outbreak of World War II. Can children tell you about any jobs that women did during the war? Go on to read the information on the following slides about some of the jobs that women did during the war. Allow children to ask any questions they have at this stage. Look for children who can suggest their own examples of jobs done by women during the war.





You're Hired!: Children receive an Offer of Employment Letter for a wartime job that contains some key facts about the role. (You may wish to personally present these to the children in envelopes to build interest and excitement.) They then research the job and complete the differentiated Job Description Activity Sheet to explain the job in detail. (It is recommended that children researching the same job are seated at the same table so they can help each other and share information. The tables can be signposted using the Training Post Labels if required.) Check that children can recall examples of a range of jobs undertaken by women during the war. Look for children who can explain about a specific job in detail and demonstrate understanding and empathy.





Children fill in a table giving details about their job.



Children reply in role to a letter asking them questions about their new job.



Children write a diary entry about their job.





Propaganda Posters: Discuss the purpose of propaganda posters and look through the examples given asking children to answer the questions on each slide in their pairs. Children then design their own propaganda poster on the **Propaganda Poster Activity**Sheet to advertise one of the jobs. Look for children that can advertise the key aspects of the job and create an appealing poster.





After the War: Read the information on the slide and discuss the questions. Children complete the **Role of Women Pre and Post World War II Activity Sheet.** Discuss some of the responses together referring to information from the Lesson Presentation to clarify ideas further if necessary. Check that children understand how the role of women in British society was affected by the war and that they can describe what life was like for many women before, during and after the war.



Taskit

Compareit: What jobs can women do in the armed forces in Britain today? How does the role of women in the armed forces today differ from the role in

World War II?

Createit: Can you find/draw a selection of pictures showing women at work during the war and present these a collage or poster?

Askit: Interview older family members or friends. Do they know of any women who took on special wartime jobs? What can they tell you?

