



1. Develop a life in a shoe box

Subjects covered: Local History, WW2, Citizenship, and Art & Design

Skills Required: Speaking, listening and communication, reading

Notes for the teacher: All School references can be found either in the Schools folder or in 'The War at Home' pages.

Use photographs from the past of Middlewich, together with written and audio visual material. The following ideas and questions can guide you towards classroom sessions that include the above skills and subject areas, engaging differing age groups and abilities.

Resources on this site include:

- Interpretation Boards No 3 'Middlewich Throws up its Defences', No 5 'The War at Home' and No 11 'Children of the War'
- Interview Collection No 1
- The War at Home CD.
- Further Resources available from Middlewich Town Council Book Shop, including Allan Earl's book 'Middlewich at War'

Listen to section 1 of the 'War at Home' CD and read Interview Collection 1 as a class. What are the children's first impressions of what is going on? What can they tell about the individuals' lives? For example how old were they during the war, what was their family and home life like and how do you think they felt about the war they were living through? Once pupils have discussed the individuals and got a snap of their lives at that time, translate the information into art and language. One of the interviewees mentions 'her life was in that shoe box', get the pupils to think about that and prepare a shoe box for one of the interviewees. For example, how would they decorate the box in the style of their chosen individual, what items would they have in that box, what does the individual look like in war-time, what would they have played with etc... Allow the children to explore what the individual's life would have been like; perhaps compare it to their own at this point in time.

There are some clues to personality in the resources but the pupils could also look up information on the internet to get more ideas of being a child during the war but to also have to cope with the possibility of losing everything but the shoebox.

This work can link into present session plans that look at evacuees during the war. (Also see session plan 5).