

SOCIAL STUDIES · GRADES 5–6

World War II — Daily Life

Source analysis

Source A — Rationing leaflet, 1940 (paraphrased)

Every man, woman and child has been issued a ration book. You may buy 4oz of butter, 8oz of sugar, 2oz of tea and 1 fresh egg per week. Meat is rationed by price, not weight. Save peelings for the pig bin. Make do — and mend.

Source B — Diary of a child in an industrial city, November 1940 (paraphrased)

We slept in the shelter again. Mom had filled it with blankets and a thermos. The bombs sounded like the sky was tearing. Dad said the cathedral was hit. In the morning, the air smelled of brick dust and burning rubber.

Source C — Letter from an evacuated child, 1940 (paraphrased)

Dear Mom, the cottage smells of wood smoke. Mrs Davies has hens. There are hills as far as you can see. I miss you and the radio. Please tell baby Jim I will bring him a pebble shaped like a heart.

Source questions

1. What does Source A tell us about the daily diet of a wartime family?
2. How does the child in Source B describe an air raid? Use a quotation.



3. What feelings might the evacuated child in Source C have? Give two and explain.
4. Compare Sources B and C. How were children's experiences of the war different?
5. Which source do you think is most useful for understanding daily life in wartime? Why?

