

In September 1939, Britain declared war on Germany and life changed almost overnight. From gas masks and blackouts to barrage balloons and sandbags, this activity explores how ordinary homes and communities prepared for the unknown.

You Will Need

- Paper
 - Pen or pencil
 - Access to a torch or lamp
 - A shoebox or small cardboard box (optional)
 - Scissors and tape (optional)
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Design a Blackout Poster

- During the war, people had to block all lights at night to avoid being seen by enemy aircraft. Imagine you've been asked to design a poster to remind your neighbours to "Keep it Dark!"
- On a sheet of paper, design your own blackout awareness poster. Include a slogan, some simple artwork, and instructions for keeping homes dark at night. Use your imagination, but keep the message clear and serious.

Make Your Own Air Raid Shelter

- If you have a shoebox or small cardboard box, turn it into a model of an Anderson shelter.
- Use strips of paper or card to make bunk beds inside.
- Draw little details like food supplies or a kettle.
- Use a torch or lamp to shine light through a small hole to show how people might have needed blackout covers.
- If you don't want to make the model, just sketch a cross-section of what an Anderson shelter might look like inside.