

Make Do and Mend

During the war, nothing went to waste. Children and adults alike collected scrap metal, paper, bones and even food waste to help Britain build planes, feed pigs, and keep going through tough times. This activity helps you explore how recycling and repurposing became a way of life.

You Will Need

Paper

Pen or pencil

A box or bag to collect pretend “salvage” items around your home

Scissors, glue, and scrap paper

Salvage Hunt

- Look around your home (with an adult’s permission) and write a list of 10 items that might have been useful to the war effort. Think: old tins, rags, newspaper, bones from dinner, jars, broken tools.
- Write down what each item could be turned into (e.g. bones for glue, tin for planes).
- Bonus challenge: try collecting a pretend pile of items into a cardboard box or bag like the Blitz Kids’ cart.

Poster for the People

- The government encouraged everyone to save, mend and reuse with eye-catching posters.
- Design your own wartime-style propaganda poster.
- Use a bold slogan like “Squash the Squander Bug!” or “Save Scrap – Build Spitfires!”
- Add a picture and colour if you’d like.

Make Do and Mend Plan

- Choose one everyday item of clothing or furniture that’s broken or worn out.
- Write a plan for how it could be fixed or reused instead of thrown away.
- Be creative – an old sock might become a puppet, or a worn dress could be turned into curtains!