

Even during the war, children found time to play, read, and celebrate holidays like Christmas. This activity explores what home life was like in wartime Britain and how families made the best of things with rationing and shortages all around them.

You Will Need

Paper

Pen or pencil

Optional: an empty cereal box or scrap cardboard

Optional: wrapping paper, string, glue

Wartime Christmas

- It's Christmas 1943. There's no tinsel or turkey, but your family is determined to make it special.
- Write a short paragraph describing your Christmas morning.
- What are you having for breakfast? What did you give as presents?
- Try to include ration-friendly ideas: carrot biscuits, handmade toys, and recycled decorations.

Utility Furniture Catalogue

- During the war, homes were often rebuilt or refurnished with simple 'utility' furniture, designed to save materials.
- Design and label your own piece of utility furniture (a chair, table or chest of drawers).
- Give it a name, such as "The Victory Chair" or "The Dig-For-Drawers".
- Try to keep it plain, practical and sturdy – no frills or fancy carvings!

Make-Do Toy Design

- Choose a simple toy idea that could have been made at home using scraps or recycled materials.
- Draw a design for your toy and label what it's made from (e.g. a stuffed glove puppet, a cardboard tractor, or wooden skittles).
- If you're feeling ambitious, try to make a small version using household recycling.