

Evacuee Experience - all abilities

Teacher's Notes - The Evacuee Experience session is designed to support your group's learning of WWII with a journey through the Hampshire Countryside behind a restored steam locomotive to create a memorable full day experience. Our learning sessions cover a wide range of themes. They feature hands on activities and opportunities to explore the station and engine yard. The session outlines are below. All the practical activities can be demonstrated by us, shared with a carer or hands on for the pupil, just let us know which way best suits each pupil. You can choose which of the activities you would like or we can be flexible on the day and aim to cover a variety of tasks dependent on weather conditions and pupil's learning capacity.

You will be met at the station by one of our Education Department staff who will take the role of your Billeting Officer. They will provide a safety briefing and will accompany you to your education sessions. As part of your visit everyone will be issued with replica National Identity Cards and we invite you to bring your students dressed as 1940s evacuees.



Duration & Timings: The round trip train service to Alton departs from Alresford Station at 11 am. The led sessions will take place during a 2 hour stop over at Ropley Station. The learning sessions allow you time to explore and have lunch. Return to Alresford is at 14:35. Alternative itineraries are available. Available May – end September.

Activities: We will divide the time into short activities with plenty of changes of location. Choose from the following:

- I. **What was it like to be an evacuee:** Your group will share the memories of a gentleman who really was an evacuee when he was a boy. What does he remember? This session provides the chance to listen to the experiences of somebody who was really there and find out what it was like to be a child during the Second World War. Bring along your questions on the highs and lows of Wartime Britain. (Subject to availability - may be narrated by education staff).
- II. **Wartime Railways:** Takes you on a visit to our Engine Yard where we can get up close to the locos. These locomotives will be used to explain the role of the railways during the war and how they maintained services despite the bombing, call-up of railway staff and the demands of military transport.
- III. **Make Do and Mend:** Discover how the country was taught to conserve scarce resources during the war. Your group will be shown how garments were re- styled

and re-used. Knitting, darning and making a rag rug from old material are demonstrated and available for all who would like to try.

- IV. **Railways in Wartime:** Use spotter sheets to identify articles on the station platform that would and would not have been here in wartime. Would they have needed anything else? *Pre visit activity; Read the Government instructions for Preparations for War with your group, what would the Station Master need to do to protect his family?*
- V. **Rationing & pre decimal money:** This activity explains how rationing worked. It describes how coupons were used alongside money to obtain goods. As a group we explore just how far a wartime clothing coupon allowance would go by dressing these figures and counting off the coupons used.
- VI. **Ethel & George take part in Operation Pied Piper:** Pupils identify the items which boys and girls were instructed to take with them from a photo list and pack the cases. Your group will then be shown the luggage of 2 typical evacuees. They will be read the letters sent to the class teacher by the mothers of Ethel and George and discuss how families might have felt. At the end of the session your group is given the chance to spend a quiet minute thinking about the feeling of children who had lost their homes through bombing.
- VII. *Optional* –**Send a Postcard Home:** bring postcards stamped ready to write and post in our heritage post box (or we can supply for 50p/card including postage).



Cross Curricular Links: Technology, Art & Design, History, Maths, Literacy.

To Book: Please contact the Education Office for availability. Your date can be reserved with a £50 deposit (subject to group size).

Tailor made sessions: All our education sessions can be tailored to your curriculum. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

Prices: An Evacuee Experience, including education sessions and travel - £9 / student; accompanying adults 1 free / 10 students, others £14. (Subject to group size)

Students requiring additional support: If you have students that require additional resources, differentiation or practical assistance please let us know and we will be happy to adapt your session to make it accessible to your whole group. Large print and 'Easy Read' copies of all text are available on request.

**For more information contact the Education Department on 01962 733810.
Email education@watercressline.co.uk**