

# Kingston Museum and Heritage Service

## Kingston at War Website - Teachers' Notes

The website *Kingston at War* is a collection of primary source material from the archives in Kingston Museum and Heritage Service. It supports history studies of the home front during the Second World War.

The material consists of

- Photographs taken in Kingston, Surbiton and New Malden of
  - bomb damage
  - people working on the home front
  - the army
- maps showing where bombs fell
- video interviews with veterans

These resources are designed to be used either on PCs for individual learning, or on whiteboards for classroom lessons and activities.

### Curriculum Links – Key Stage 2

The website is based on archives and stories from the Second World War and lends itself to the study of the war in Britain Since 1930 (11b). It is useful for developing pupil's knowledge, skills and understanding, particularly:

- Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past
- Historical interpretation
- Organisation and communication

The site can be used in a number of ways that makes cross curricular links to subjects, including:

- **ICT** - Pupils use digitised maps to identify and colour-code features important to local study
- **English**
  - Speaking and listening
    - Speaking
    - Group discussion and interaction
  - Writing
    - Planning and drafting
- **Drama** - Stimulating materials, developing empathy
- **Citizenship** - Talking and writing about pupils' opinions, and explaining their views

### Links to QCA Schemes of work:

**Unit 9:** What was it like for children in the Second World War?

## **Activities**

These activities are suggestions on how you use the website. They are flexible and can be used as part of a lesson, or expanded to be a complete lesson.

### **Historical Enquiry**

Pupils can work either individually, or in groups to research specific questions or themes. This will enable pupils to work with and interpret primary evidence.

### **Creative writing**

By studying the video histories, pupils can create pieces of writing in the first person. They can develop a sense of what it was like on the home front during the war by looking at the photographs. They may produce short stories about an event in Kingston during the Second World War, diaries of children who lived in the war, or people visiting Kingston.

### **Newspaper report**

Pupils will need to study the newspaper report on the bombing of New Malden railway station. This is found on the Bomb Map of New Malden. Due to censorship of the time, no actual figures or dates are given in the report. Looking at other evidence and watching the videos as interviews, pupils will produce a news report on a certain event that took place. They are welcome to download photographs to put into their article.

### **Drama**

The resources on the website lend themselves to producing a creative piece of drama. Working in groups pupils can put together a piece about;

- what was it like during air raids – look at Bomb Maps, Photo Galleries and Video Interviews
- jobs on the home front – look at Photo Galleries and Video Interviews
- what it was like to be American service personnel in Kingston – look at Photo Galleries
- the celebrations, street parties and relief at the end of the war – look at Photo Galleries

Alternatively, pupils can work independently and “hot seat” in front of the class. They need to study the website, develop a character from the home front, and in first person, answer questions from the class about their life on the Home Front.

### **Plotting bomb damage in your Local Area**

Study the photographs or bomb maps of your local area. Make a class visit to the area and record how it is now. Is there any evidence of bomb damage today, are there modern buildings that have replaced the destroyed buildings, are the same buildings present but repaired? Record the differences in posters, displays or a report format.

## **Discussion and debating**

Many issues can be addressed in the website can be used for discussing relevant issues today. Themes can be

- conflict
- refugees
- the role of women in war

## **More Information**

All of these resources and many more can be found in the Local History Room. For more information about what resources Kingston Museum and Heritage Service has on the Second World War, please contact

Kingston Museum 020 8547 6460  
The Local History Room 020 8547 6738  
Education Officer 020 8547 6754  
Website: [www.kingston.gov.uk/museum](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/museum)