

DIG FOR VICTORY ACTIVITIES



Activity One: Planting

Making rations last until the end of the week was often problematic during the Second World War, so the Dig for Victory campaign was launched in October 1939. This encouraged families to grow their own food and people to turn their flower beds and lawns into vegetable gardens. Children helped and even had gardening lessons at school.

Activity:
Grow your own vegetables from seeds!



V for Victory marrow (11lbs) grown by Mr H J Chapman, Ivy Cottages, Bodmin held by his daughter Marie, 14/10/1941. Photo credit: Kresen Kernow

Activity Two: Dancing



Potato Pete and Doctor Carrot were created to promote vegetable eating and appeared in most wartime recipes as they could be easily grown. They even had their own songs!

Listen to this instrumental version of the Potato Pete song
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsW4NN32yyw>

During the Second World War entertainment was needed to maintain and uplift morale. Wartime night clubs and dance halls were popular. The Lindy Hop was inspired by jazz, tap and Charleston. It was introduced to the UK by American soldiers stationed here during the Second World War and was a mood enhancer during difficult times.

Activity: Listen to some catchy wartime dance tunes and try some Lindy Hopping!

Find out how to Lindy Hop here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s94UaHtRfG4>



Activity Three: Poetry

This poem was written by a Land Girl called Hilda Gibson and shows how women in the Women's Land Army challenged what was expected of them during wartime. Hilda encapsulates what life on the land looked like and how she wanted the Women's Land Army to be remembered by future generations.

1) *We were the Women's Land Army,
Eighty thousand strong.
We worked all hours in the heat and
the cold,
Each day was hard and long.*

2) *We dug the ditches, milked the cows,
Brought in the harvest grain.
Collected the eggs and killed the rats!
We braved the wind and rain.
[...]*

3) *Yet though the hardship
and the toil
We did our very best.
A job well done was our reward,
And never mind the rest.*

4) *That's what we did in the War,
child,
So tell your friends at school.
They won't see us in the Big Parade,
But Land Girls? We were cool'.*

Activity: Read this poem out loud. Practice and perform it!



Women's Land Army demonstration, two Mill Girls, Carthuther, Liskeard. 08/10/1941. Photo credit: Kresen Kernow

Activity Four: Singing and Writing

The armed forces have used songs, jokes and humour as a coping mechanism for facing combat, military service, and even grief for hundreds of years. Land Girls enjoyed singing popular songs of the day and inventing their own simple versions to sing in the fields or while travelling. One popular song was sung to the tune of 'She'll be Coming Round the Mountain' and was about the uniform worn by Land Girls.

Activity: Try singing this song quietly and then noisily. Create your own lyrics about the Women's Land Army uniform and write another verse.



Women's Land Army Demonstration, Dorothy Ferry tacking horse, Carthuther, Liskeard, 08/10/1941. Photo credit: Kresen Kernow

*If you wanna go to heaven when you die
You must wear a green pullover and a tie
You must wear a khaki bonnet
With WLA on it
If you wanna go to heaven when you die*

Blank writing area with horizontal lines for creating lyrics or writing a new verse.

Activity Five: Writing a Caption

During the war years the shortage of sugar meant that children did not have many sweets. Carrots were even stuck on sticks and given to unimpressed children as lollipops! Cakes and biscuits were a luxury.



Activity: Give this photograph a caption to describe what the children are thinking!

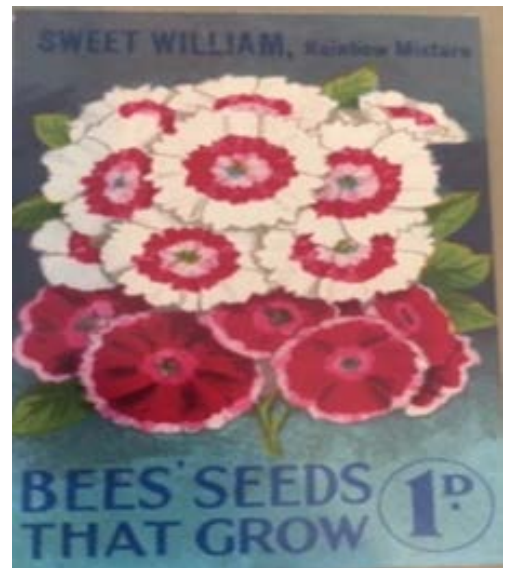
Activity Six: Design a Flower Packet

To help the war effort, all land was given over to food production which meant that far fewer flowers were grown. Flowers became increasingly hard-to-come-by because of their dwindling numbers and began to be seen as a luxury.

Flower seed packets pre-war were beautifully illustrated and looked like works of art.

Activity: Design your own flower seed packet below.

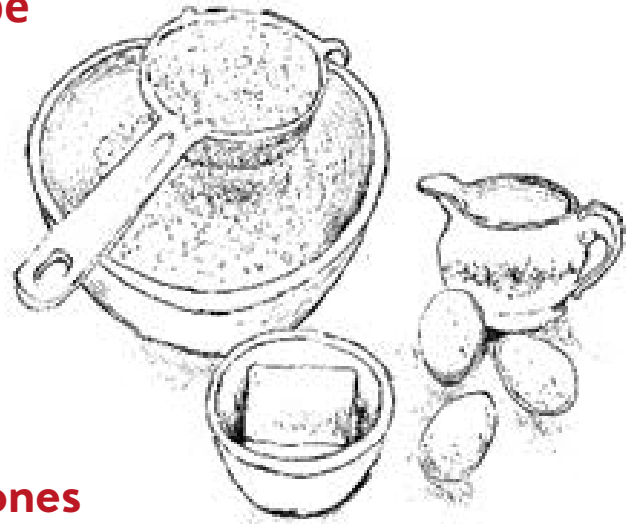
What's your favourite flower and does it remind you of a special occasion?



Activity Seven: Make a Wartime Recipe

Wartime recipes were healthy as they had little fat and sugar. They also had small amounts of meat and cheese due to rationing. Potato Pete and Doctor Carrot appeared in most recipes and people were encouraged to experiment with new and unusual foods. What's the most unusual food you've eaten?

Activity: Find a wartime recipe you like the sound of. Make it or try this carrot scone recipe instead.



Carrot scones

Ingredients (Makes 12 scones)

- 12 tablespoons self-raising flour and 1 teaspoon baking powder - sifted together (or ½ wholemeal)
- 2 tablespoons softened butter (or margarine)
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 8 tablespoons grated carrot
- A few drops of vanilla essence

Method

1. Pre-heat oven to gas mark 6 / 200°C. Grease a baking tray.
2. Leave the butter out so that it becomes soft to work with. Beat the butter and sugar until they are creamed.
3. Add the grated carrot, a bit at a time.
4. Add the vanilla.
5. Slowly add the sifted flour.
6. Pinch and roll the desired amount for your scone between your hands. You should get 12 scones from this recipe.
7. Place on baking tray and sprinkle with a little sugar (optional).
8. Cook in the centre of the oven for about 20 minutes.
9. Once firm on top and at the sides, they are done. Remove from oven and cool!

Activity Seven: Vegetable Garden Design

Dig for Victory led to one of Britain's first gardening celebrities, Cecil Henry Middleton. Mr Middleton hosted a Sunday afternoon radio show on the BBC Home Service where he guided listeners on how to look after their garden.



Activity: Plan a vegetable garden or colour the illustrations, cut them out and glue them to make a vegetable patch worthy of envy during the war years! You could draw your own vegetables instead.

Activity Seven: Colouring in

