

World War Two: Communication

Discover how people communicated during wartime and think about how this is different from the modern day.

Activity 1: Dots and Dashes

Morse code is a system where every letter of the alphabet is represented by a combination of dots and dashes. It was much used in wartime, especially by the Armed Forces. It could be used instead of a radio communication, and could also be signalled from ships, using a flashing light.

Use the Morse Code alphabet below to decipher this secret message. TIP: the / indicates the start of a new word.

.-- /-...- - . /- -- --/

--/ -/ -.. -- -- ./- --/

-- - ./-...- /-...- -..!

A ●-	J ●---	S ●●●
B -●●●	K -●-	T -
C -●-●	L ●-●●	U ●●-
D -●●	M --	V ●●●-
E ●	N -●	W ●--
F ●●-●	O ---	X -●●-
G --●-	P ●-●-	Y -●-●
H ●●●●	Q --●-	Z --●●
I ●●	R ●-●	

Activity 2: Heard It on the Wireless



Today we often hear our news on the television, but during the 1940s, people listened to the radio. It was very important that radio broadcasts about the war were short, clear, and informative.

Use the Internet or books to research one of the events below. Then prepare to give a radio broadcast. Make sure it isn't too long, contains all the key information and is read out clearly. You could record it on a mobile, tablet or computer. Listen to it back. Could you make it any clearer?

Events: Outbreak of War / Introduction of Rationing / The Battle of Britain / VE Day

Activity 3: Wartime Messages

During World War Two, the government released many posters, encouraging people to support their country's efforts to win the war. For instance, men would be asked to 'sign up' for the Armed Forces, and women were asked to work in factories and on farms. They might also have included things, such as evacuating children and not wasting precious food.



Use the Internet or books to research 'World War Two Propaganda Posters'. Choose a poster that you find interesting and answer the following questions:

- 1) Why have you chosen this poster?
- 2) Who is this poster aimed at?
- 3) What is the main message of this poster?
- 4) What colours, fonts and images have been used and why?
- 5) What mood does the poster portray?

Once you have answered these questions, have a go at creating your own propaganda poster based on one of the themes below. Each of these was a real wartime poster.

Themes:

- Walk instead of using public transport
- Grow food in your garden
- What to do in a blackout
- Evacuate children
- Men to become soldiers
- Women to work in factories
- Follow the rules of rationing

Activity 4: Laughter Is the Best Medicine



Wartime was a scary and stressful time for everyone. It was important to keep people feeling positive, and to boost their morale. One way this was done was through the creation of amusing comic strips.

Go on a scavenger hunt to collect 5 different comic strips. Try looking in magazines, newspapers and on the Internet.

Then, use these comic strips as inspiration to create your own! Take a blank piece of paper and split it into 6 sections using a ruler and pencil. Use this template to create your own comic strip. Plan it out before you start to draw. Comic strips tell a short story about a character or group of characters. Use 'speech bubbles' to add dialogue. Keep these as brief as possible, to make your strip easy to read. Make it colourful and fun!

[Click to download a free comic-strip template](#)

