

Home Front Oxford

A KS2 History Workshop



Workshop Outline

Discover the Home Front in Oxford during World War II with our immersive museum experience. Uncover the stories of ARP wardens, war workers, and evacuees in Oxford through hands-on activities with authentic artefacts. Also, pupils will have a chance to discover what Oxford did to help win the war. Held in the historic Town Hall, the nerve centre of wartime Oxford, this session offers a unique opportunity to explore the local context during this significant time in the history of Britain. Ignite curiosity and deepen understanding as your pupils journey through the past with the Museum of Oxford. Book now for an unforgettable educational adventure!

Session Aims

This is a workshop for KS2 pupils to support the study of the impact World War Two had on the City of Oxford and how it affected the lives of people who lived here during the War. This workshop will also provide the opportunity to consider the impact Oxford made on the outcome of the war.

How does the day work?

This Museum-based workshop takes between 1 hour 45 minutes and 2 hours; we offer up to two sessions a day starting at 10 am or 12.30 pm. After a whole class introduction to World War Two in Oxford, we look at the Town Hall, a key part of the story.

We then split the class into smaller groups

that carousel around three tasks that take place both in the Museum gallery space and in our dedicated learning rooms. The session ends back together where we



share what was discovered about Oxford in World War Two. We use a series of enquiry questions for each task to help pupils answer the question “What was life like in World War Two Oxford?”

Outline of the Session

Welcome & Starter

After hellos and key safety announcements, we begin the session with an air-raid siren, something all British people feared they would hear on the first day of the War. As a whole class, we will discuss how important it was to be prepared for war. We look at how the Town Hall, the building they are in, played a major role in all the topics they will be exploring. We then split up the class into three groups and let the group know what they will be doing for the three tasks.



Task 1 – ARP and War Worker Object Handling

As a smaller group, pupils handle a mix of original, replica and reproduction objects, documents, and images to answer an enquiry question “How did people help the war effort?” The items are all associated with the roles of an ARP Warden in Oxford and a War Worker working armaments at the Morris factory in Cowley. There are a series of smaller tasks that support the pupils’ discovery of these roles.

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Task 2 – Evacuees in Oxford

Using the enquiry question “What was life like for an evacuee in Oxford?”, pupils, with one of your adults supporting, take a closer look at the Evacuation and how some may have felt. Pupils will look at reproduced and replica documents and look through an evacuee’s suitcase to help them answer the question.

Task 3 – Oxford at War

Using the objects on open display, pupils look at the impact Oxford had on World War Two. From Morris Motors, and the Ministry of Fisheries to saving millions of lives with scientific breakthroughs; pupils, led by a member of your school, will explore our two galleries to answer the question, “How did Oxford Impact the War?”



Plenary

As a whole group, we share what was discovered about the Home Front in Oxford and how the city helped win the war.

Curriculum links

KS 2 History

- A local history study.
 - A study of an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.
- A study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066.
 - A significant turning point in British history.



Workshop costs

The workshop is 1 ¾ to 2 hours long and costs £4 per student, with a minimum charge of £75 per session. Maximum number of pupils per session is 34. Supervising adults are free of charge.

We may be able to offer the use of a room for 30 minutes for lunch. There is a £10 fee for use of a lunchroom. Please request this on enquiry.

There is a single £5 invoice raising fee should you need an invoice. Should you wish to make multiple trips in a single booking, we will only apply this fee to the first session to cover the whole series of visits. We offer different payment methods such as card or cheque in the shop on the day.

How to book

Email the Museum: museum@oxford.gov.uk

Call the Museum: 01865 252334

Finally, you can visit our website for more information:

[https://museumofoxford.org/.](https://museumofoxford.org/)