

Life on the Home Front during WW II
United States History
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During World War II the soldiers were not the only ones fighting for a victory, people at home were fighting hard also. Americans were fighting the Germans and the Japanese by rationing their food and tires (limiting how much people were allowed to buy), holding scrap metal drives, planting victory gardens, and support the fighting men.

Directions:

1. Analyze the documents and pictures below.
2. Answer the questions about each document.
3. Complete the Wrap-up Activity described here and at the end.

You are a teenager living in the United States in the year 1943. Your older brother, Henry, was deployed to eastern France 6 months ago to fight the Germans. Write a letter to Henry explaining what life has been like since he left and the things the family is doing to help the war effort. Use the images and letters provided as a basis for your description.

Document #1:

"One front and one battle where everyone in the United States - every man, woman, and child - is in action. That front is right here at home, in our daily lives."

**-U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt,
in address to the nation,
April, 1942**

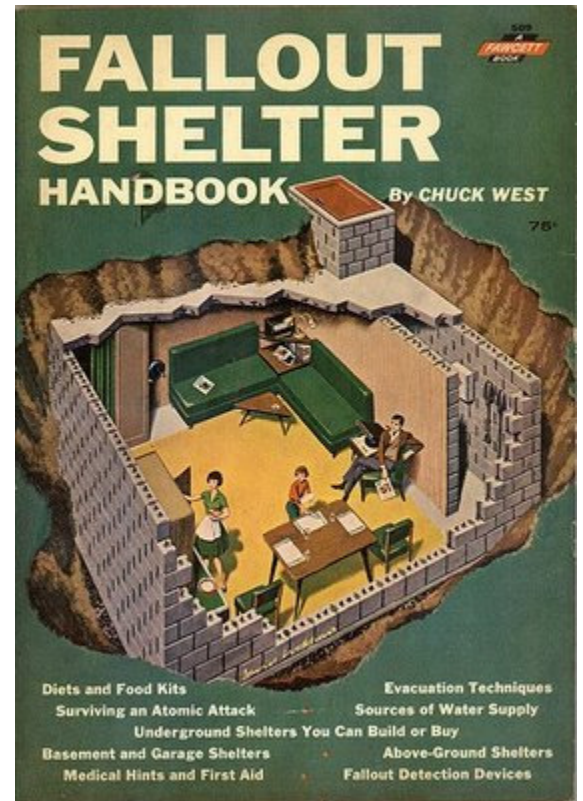
1. According to President Roosevelt, who is in action?
2. Where is the front located?
3. What does this quote tell you about the mindset of Americans during World War II?

Document #2:



1. What does the poster and the picture encourage people to do?
2. What emotions do the expressions on the people's faces portray?
3. What does the statement "Our food is fighting" mean?
4. Not only do the soldiers benefit from the gardens, but how do the people at home benefit?
5. Why were people so willing to grow Victory Gardens?

Document #3:



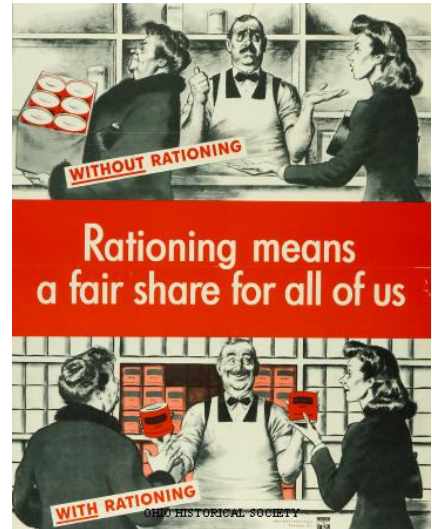
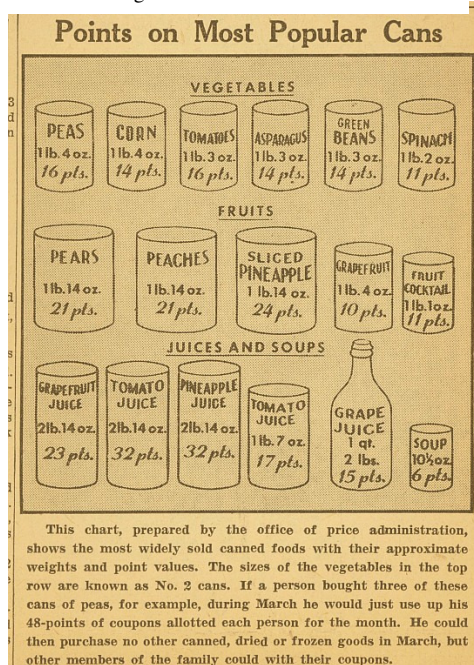
1. What is the purpose of the bomb shelter?
2. Why were so many people willing to invest in building a bomb shelter?
3. What items were necessary for a bomb shelter?
4. What other items did the Bomb Shelter Handbook advise readers about?
5. What do these images tell you about the Home front during WW II?

Document #4:

<http://www.ameshistoricalsociety.org/exhibits/events/rationing3.htm>



<http://faxmentis.org/html/jpg/meat-ration.jpg>



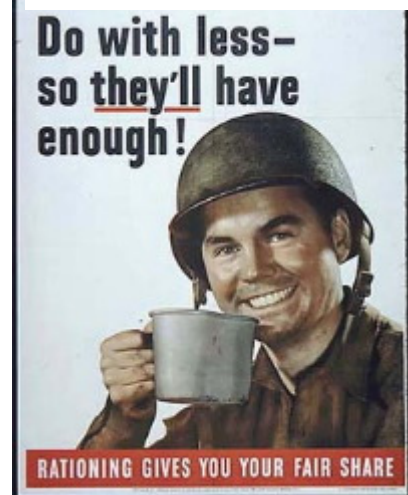
<http://neftriplecrunch.files.wordpress.com/2009/04/rationing.jpg>

WE MUST GET ALONG WITH LESS SUGAR THIS YEAR BECAUSE—

1. Military needs are high. Each soldier actually consumes twice as much sugar a year as the average civilian now receives.
2. Ships which otherwise might be bringing sugar into the United States are hauling supplies to the battle fronts.
3. Manpower is scarce at sugar refineries and shipping ports.
4. Beet sugar production last year was 500,000 tons short, making the stock of sugar smaller for this year.
5. Last year many people over-applied for canning sugar. We used so much sugar that stocks at the beginning of this year were abnormally low.

DO NOT APPLY FOR MORE SUGAR THAN YOU ACTUALLY NEED FOR HOME CANNING — HELP MAKE OUR WAR SHORT SUGAR SUPPLIES LAST ALL YEAR

<http://www.ameshistoricalsociety.org/exhibits/events/rationing3.htm>



<http://nhs.needham.k12.ma.us/cur/WWII/06/p1/mds/powers.html>

Analyze the documents about Rationing during World War II, then answer the following questions.

1. Based on the images, write a definition of rationing.
2. What types of items were rationed?
3. Why was it important for every citizen to follow the rationing guidelines?

4. What do these images tell you about life on the Home Front during WW II

Document #5:

Hello Corporal to be _____

Say how long are you going to keep writing "PRIVATE ART", I thought you said you were going to be a corporal (maybe), Well, anyhow this letter isn't going to be long, because this is the first letter I am writing to you, the next one will be longer (I think). By the way "Pistol Packin' Mama" is on the Hit Parade but they don't sing it right, they say something like this "Now there was a red head gal named peg, etc. I don't know the rest. If you ever listen to the radio write that new "Pistol Packin' Mama" for me. Last Saturday (Oct. 30, 1943) I went to a Halloween party. The party was at Betty Haverbush's house. I dressed like a gypsy. When Carol and I got there the "kids" were drinking soft drinks and eating pretzels and potato chips. Well we got a soft drink but I don't know about those potato chips and pretzels. We had to pay 25 cents, and one ration point (for the meat). Boy did we get a lot. We had 2 soft drinks each, 2 weiners each, pickels, buns, muffins and a few other things for only 25 cents (just think).

We heard Jack Benny last night (Oct 31, 1943) that was Halloween well Mary (Livingston, to those of us products of the forties who remember Jack Benny and wife as well as Rochester and all the Jack Benny cast) Well Mary said to Jack, she said, "If you would take the inside of a frankfurter out, what would you have", and she said "A Halloweenie" and she went Ha Ha. (GOODBY)

Your Sister
Joan Pranger

P.S. DON'T FORGET MY SOVENIER FROM TEXAS. On the top of the page she wrote - (CONTINUED FROM THE BOTTOM). I guess you don't know what I was talking about when I mentioned that joke but it doesn't matter. PLEASE ANSWER.

1. Who is this letter to? Who is it from?
2. What song is mentioned that was new on the Hit Parade?
3. What event did the writer attend?
4. How much did she have to pay for their food?
5. What does this letter tell you about life on the Home Front during WW II?

Wrap-up Activity:

**Use the space below and the back of this page to complete the activity.
Correct grammar and structure are necessary.**

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