



VICTORY GARDENS

Lesson and Activity Suggestions for Grades 9-12

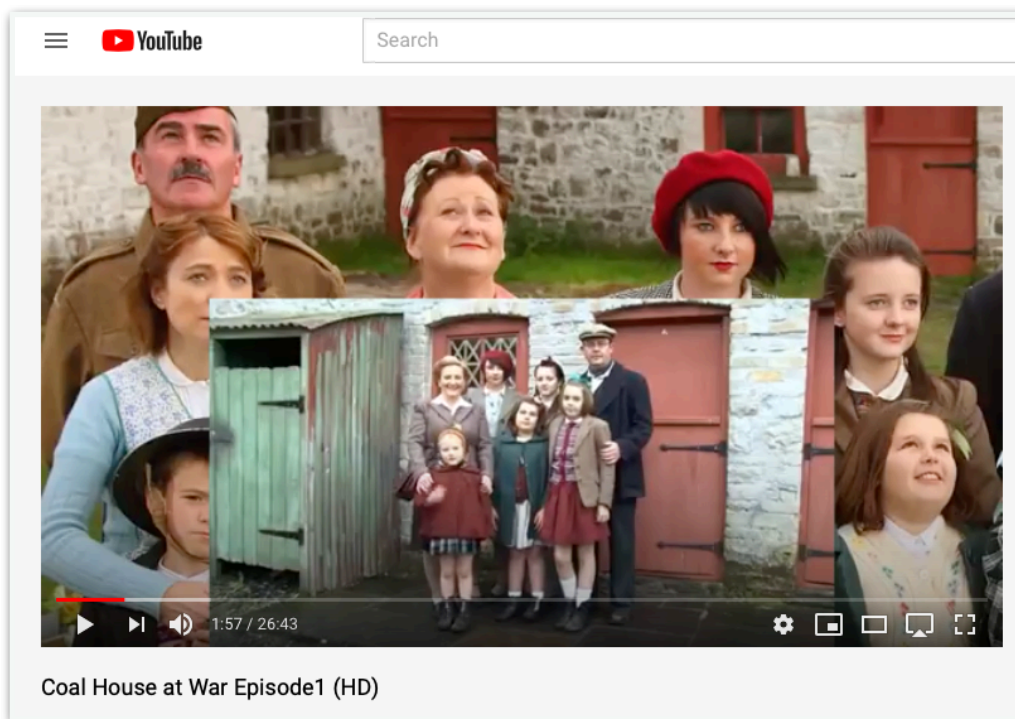
Coal House

Living in a war zone in 1944

In America, the war affected the basic way of life, food shortages, rations, and work. Now imagine all those sacrifices, and you also have to worry about getting air raids by the enemy. In much of Europe, the war was at home, and families had to worry about their lives in addition to the shortages. Most people today have no concept of the dangers and sacrifices that people had to make during World War II.

In 2009, a reality show was created to take three modern families from Wales (Great Britain) and move them to a mining village recreated just like the 1940s. See the sacrifices and the adjustments those families had to deal with and answer the questions below as you watch Episode One of *The Coal House*.

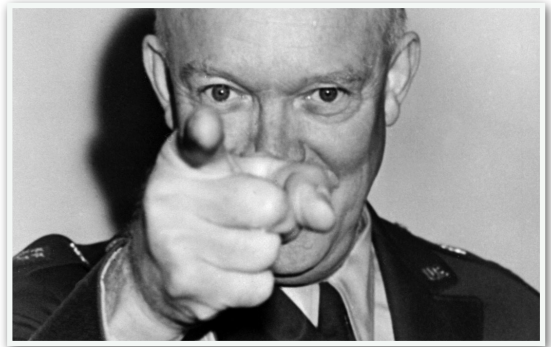
You can find the episode on youtube.com searching "Coal House at War Episode 1" or use this url: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkJv1HgA-0A>.



As you watch "Coal House at War Episode 1," answer these questions.

1. What were the first early modern comforts that the families found were missing when they arrived?
2. What's the biggest change that affected women during the war?
3. What was the crucial chore to start the day for survival?
4. What was the biggest issue that the teen girl had with the 1940s adjustments?
5. In 1944, meat rationing was at its height. What was the public encouraged to do?
6. What was the Air Raid warden's main purpose? What were the families doing to get a stern warning?
7. Why do you think the men walked to work at that time?
8. What percent of women ages 18-40 were involved in the war effort in 1944?
9. What is the biggest change that you see from schools then to schools today?
10. From your own inferences, what were reasons that men would be exempt from fighting in the war at that time?
11. In America, many foods were in short supply. What foods do you think were rationed in England that weren't a big deal in America?
12. What was the biggest concern with the women as the days progressed?
13. Why were children evacuated and rehoused with other families?
14. What was the direction during the air raid sirens?

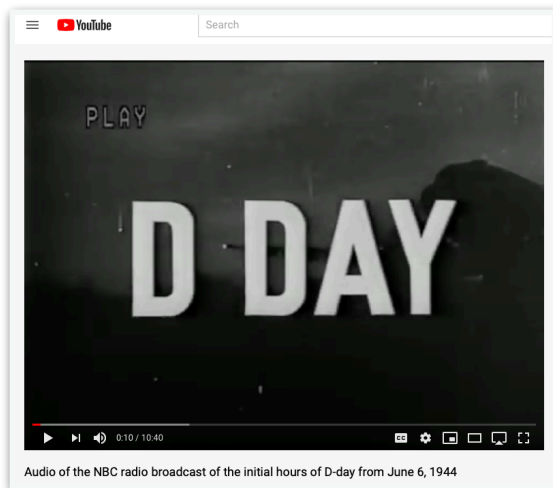
DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?



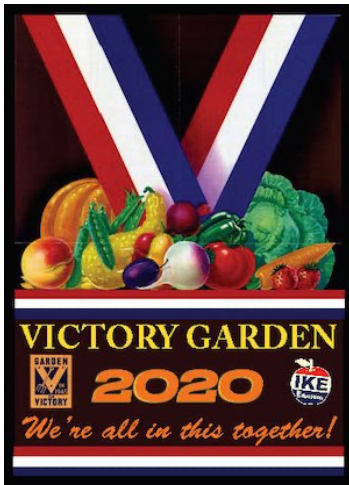
Follow up activity

Try spending one hour without the comforts of today. You can only use items from 1944 or before. Turn down the lights and close the curtains to make sure the Germans don't use your home for target practice.

The only exemption you may use for technology is if you listen to radio broadcasts from the 1940s. A good example is the first reports of the D-Day landing. You can find these on YouTube with the search "Audio of the NBC radio broadcast of the initial hours of D-day from June 6, 1944" or going to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bj2pXLZd2UI>.



Journal your thoughts and what you experienced without the comforts of the 21st century. Did you actually interact with your family? What did you do in that dark hour?



Join us for a **LIVE** program **Thursday, May 7th, 2020, at 1:00** for "**Victory Gardens: No Sacrifice is Too Small.**"

Be sure to register ahead of time at <https://education.blogs.archives.gov/2020/03/30/online-student-programs/>. A link to join will be privately emailed to you.

Answer Key for page 2

1. The homes were missing indoor plumbing and sinks
2. They had to get out of the home and take on jobs vacated by men
3. The most important chore was to light the stove first thing in the morning.
4. The teenager seemed to be most frustrated with the clothes she was wearing.
5. Raise their own animals for a meat source.
6. The air raid warden's job was to keep the people safe, and incur penalties for those that weren't being safe. The families received a stern warning for leaving doors open, not turning off the lights, not shutting their curtains.
7. Shortages of gas, shortages of rubber for tires, the men were forced to walk over four miles one way to work.
8. 85%
9. Discipline and forcing them to take medicine.
10. Older men, men that did not pass the physical exam, men that were not mentally stable.
11. Tea and jam were popular daily items in England, not so much in America.
12. Having enough food to feed their families.
13. To escape German bombing raids to the relative safety of the valleys.
14. Get under shelter in their homes, under tables, under shelters in their gardens, turn off the lights, blacken the curtains.