World War II

Life in the UK

☐ The war years were difficult for everybody. People were afraid of bombs, had difficulty finding food and were worried about their family members who were away fighting. Almost one and a half million people were evacuated from big cities to safer areas.
Large groups of city children left their homes for the countryside and did not see their parents again until after the war.

☐ During World War II everybody in Britain, even babies, had to carry two things with them all the time: a gas mask and an identity card. Identity cards were introduced and so families separated or killed during air raids or evacuation could be identified quickly.

☐ On 8th January, 1940 rationing started. It was a fair way of distributing food and clothing to everyone. It prevented rich or greedy people from buying too much. People had ration books which they used to buy a limited amount of things they needed.

☐ Everybody was busy during the war. Men and women went to war as soldiers, doctors and nurses. Everybody at home had to register for work. Old people and people exempt from fighting joined the Home Guard. They did duties near their homes such as organising air raid shelters and checking that people didn't have lights on during the blackouts.

rationing: razionamento   ration books: carte annonarie
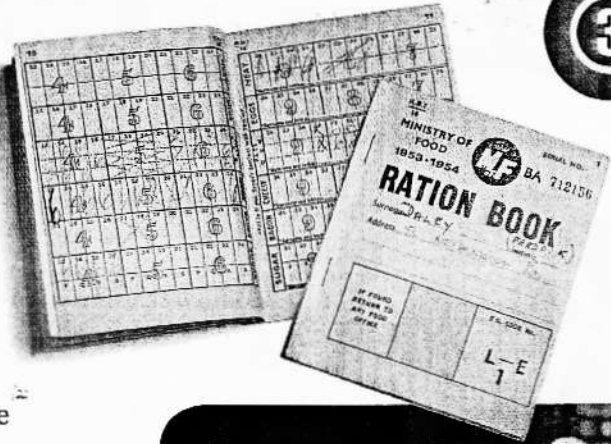fair: giusto, equo   exempt from: esonerate da

Children during evacuation

2 Read the text and match the titles to each paragraph.

   a The country needs everybody

   b Don't forget these!

   c Fear and separation

   d Sharing what we have

3 Now complete the summary.

People were separated from their families in two ways:
some families' members were away (**1**) f............... and children were
(**2**) e............... to safer places. Everybody had to carry a
(**3**) g............... m............... and an (**4**) i............... c............... all
the time. (**5**) R............... was a fair way to distribute (**6**) f...............
and clothing. People who couldn't fight or work formed the
(**7**) H............... G............... .

More words!

bombers: bombardieri
destroy: distruggere
explosion: esplosione
frightened: spaventato
hit: colpire
night raid: raid notturno
safety: sicurezza