

0. HOW CHILDREN HELPED - Story Preface

1. CONSERVING FOOD IN WWI

2. WWI EMOTIONAL APPEALS

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6. HOW CHILDREN HELPED



During WWII, Americans—like people in other parts of the world—were subject to rationing of items like gasoline and food. Encouraging U.S. citizens to grow—and preserve—their own food, the federal government hired artists—such as Alfred Parker, who created this poster during 1943—to be as self-sufficient as possible. Public-domain image online via the Library of Congress.

American students learned how rationing worked in the class room. Ration books had point values, and children were taught the "whys and wherefores" of such items as "Ration Book II." Children, just like their parents, used ration cards at local stores.

Beyond learning the academics of rationing, however, American children were directly involved in war-effort recycling and, just like their British counterparts, they collected all kinds of scrap materials and saved "defense stamps." (Some of those children, now grandparents, requested that we produce this story.)

As they were during WWI, children were specifically asked to help in America, while even small children in Great Britain, during WWII, collected food scraps for pig farms.

Americans, like Brits, grew victory gardens wherever there was available space. From gardens in Florida to gardens in New England, people everywhere pitched-in to help.

Salvage drives, in the U.K. and elsewhere, encouraged people to gather their recyclable materials together in one place. So much material was collected (like these piles in Butte, Montana) that it could not all be recycled, although spent kitchen fat was used to make glycerin (an ingredient in explosives and drugs).

Urging parents to buy war bonds to protect their families, U.S. government posters also spoke directly to children:

- Be sure to "lick the platter clean."
- "We'll have lots to eat this winter, won't we Mother?" (Because Mom canned the family's food.)

As German planes bombed their country, British school children were forced to study in air raid shelters while infants wore gas masks. More than 7,500 U.K. children were killed by enemy action during World War II while countless others were traumatized.

Although children in North America were spared that agony, untold thousands had to quit school to help support their families. When one asks those children—now grandparents—what it was like to abandon their own plans and education in favor of helping out, the look on their faces answers the question.

Back then, one did not put oneself first. "The Greatest Generation" had, after all, learned such lessons from their own parents.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/HOW-CHILDREN-HELPED-Children-in-War>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/HOW-CHILDREN-HELPED-Children-in-War>



WWII-Era Poster: Grow and Can Your Own Food

Alfred Parker created this WWII-era poster. A copy of it is available, online, via the Library of Congress. Public Domain.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/WWII-Era-Poster-Grow-and-Can-Your-Own-Food>



Learning the Rationing System in School

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Learning-the-Rationing-System-in-School>



Children Collecting for the War

Image online, courtesy Delaware State Archives.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Children-Collecting-for-the-War>



Children Helping the War Effort

Image online, courtesy Nebraska Studies.org

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Children-Helping-the-War-Effort>



Collecting Needed Items for the War

Image online, courtesy Nebraska Studies.org

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Collecting-Needed-Items-for-the-War>



Finding Things to Turn In

Image online, courtesy of the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa.
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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Finding-Things-to-Turn-In>



Collecting Scrap Materials for the War

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.
PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Collecting-Scrap-Materials-for-the-War>



Collected Scrap

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.
PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Collected-Scrap>



Collecting Recyclable Materials

Image online, courtesy Literacy Heritage, West Midlands.
PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Collecting-Recyclable-Materials>



Defense Stamps - Helping to Finance World War II

Image online, courtesy Historical Boys' Clothing.
PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Defense-Stamps-Helping-to-Finance-World-War-II>

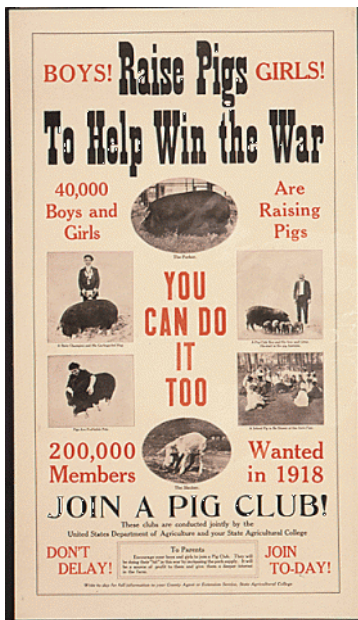


Gardens in Any Available Space

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.
PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Gardens-in-Any-Available-Space>



Poster: Raise Pigs to Help Win the War

Poster image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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Gas Masks for Babies - World War II

Image online, courtesy Imperial War Museum.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Gas-Masks-for-Babies-World-War-II>



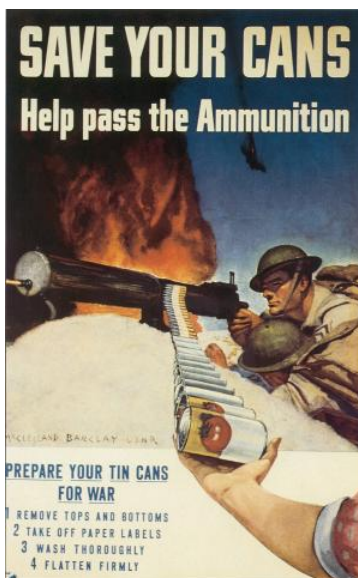
Growing a Victory Garden in Florida

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Growing-a-Victory-Garden-in-Florida>



Piles of Scrap Transformed into Tools of War

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Piles-of-Scrap-Transformed-into-Tools-of-War>