

DUNKESWELL WAR STORIES



Session Five Local Life

MAIN OBJECTIVE

To show children how local life in Dunkeswell was disrupted by the arrival of American troops and their continued presence through the remainder of WWII.

LESSON PLAN

Section	Summary of Activities	Resources/ Materials	Time
Introduction	<i>Activity 1</i> Recap of what we learnt in Session Four and introducing the idea of local life changing during the war	Paper Pencils or pens Whiteboard and markers OR interactive whiteboard	10
How Local Live Changed	<i>Activity 2</i> Show the children the short films about Dunkeswell residents describing how life changed after the Americans arrived	FILMS: Aircraft Crashes (5.1) Friendships (5.2) The Aircraft (5.3) Traffic (5.4)	15
Dear Diary	<i>Activity 3</i> Divided the class into small groups and ask them to re-enact a news bulletin about a big event that happened in Dunkeswell. These can then be acted out for the class	Worksheet 5: Dunkeswell News Paper Pencils or pens	30
Conclusion	<i>Activity 4</i> Share the letters with the class and recap what has been discussed in Activity 2	Paper Pencils or pens	5

ACTIVITIES

Activity 1 – Introduction

- Quickly discuss the previous lesson with the class to see how much they remember

Activity 2 – Childhood Memories

- Show the children the short films with Dunkeswell residents describing how life changed after the Americans arrived. After each film discuss the memories with the class:
 - **5.1 [Aircraft Crashes](#)**
 - **5.2 [Friendships](#)**
 - **5.3 [The Aircraft](#)**
 - **5.4 [Traffic](#)**

Activity 3 – Dunkeswell News

- Divide the class into small groups and give each child a copy of **Worksheet 5**. Ask them to pick one of the events they saw in the films and to produce a short sketch or drama reporting on the event. The intention is to start children thinking about how these stories were first told, and about how filming them works in advance of next week's session.
- Their preparation should include:
 - Deciding on the event they are talking about
 - Deciding on the roles (listed in the worksheet)
 - Writing a short script (on paper to be provided)
 - Rehearsing the script to be performed to the class
- If necessary the films can be replayed while this activity is taking place to refresh the children's memories.
- In the last five minutes these sketches can be performed to the class.

Activity 4 – Conclusion

- EITHER recap with the children about local life
- OR hold a quick quiz along these lines.

WORKSHEETS

Worksheet 5: Dunkeswell News

RESOURCES

- 5.1 FILM: [Aircraft Crashes](#)
- 5.2 FILM: [Friendships](#)
- 5.3 FILM: [The Aircraft](#)
- 5.4 FILM: [Traffic](#)

WORKSHEET 5

Dunkeswell News

You are part of a news crew based in Dunkeswell. Something big happened in the village last night and now rumours are getting around. It's up to you to find the people involved and interview them!

First, decide on your event from the films you've seen:

WHAT HAPPENED?:

WHERE DID IT HAPPEN?:

WHO WAS THERE?:

ROLES

Presenter (introduces the story and Reporter)

Reporter (talks to the guests about what happened)

Guests (talk about what happened)

Everyone has to pick a role. You can have as many guests as you need!

SCRIPT

(10 minutes)

Once you've decided on your roles, you'll need a script so you know what everyone is going to say! Write your script using the pens and paper provided by your teacher.

PRACTICE

(10 minutes)

Practice your script so you know what everyone is saying and where you should be standing. Go through it as many times as you can so that it sounds really professional!

PERFORM

(2 minutes)

You're now going to perform your script as if you're on camera. Good luck and remember to smile!

This teachers' pack was created as part of the *Dunkeswell War Stories* project in conjunction with staff and pupils at Broadhembury Primary School. *Dunkeswell War Stories* is an interactive online resource featuring first hand memories of the American airbase and village life during the Second World War. It was developed by the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership and produced by Dream Machine Media Ltd.

Find *Dunkeswell War Stories* at www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk

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