



Pre-visit activities

Introduction

- Use these suggested activities to help prepare your pupils for their visit.
- Here are just a few suggestions – you may have some of your own ideas.

Pre-visit activities

Presentation – Preparing for your visit

- Use the Presentation to show your pupils some photos of the fort and encourage them to think about what they might see during the visit.
- Encourage them to think about why the fort is located where it is and why the site has been used for defensive structures for nearly 3000 years. Tip: get them to think about the landscape and natural advantages of the location.

Timeline

- Use the timeline in 'Getting the most out of your visit' to think about the history of the fort.
- You could create a timeline by printing out the dates and putting them on a large timeline using a ribbon with images.
- Ask your pupils to find associated images of the events mentioned in the timeline.

Second World War and Sussex

- Look online at images of Newhaven Fort and the surrounding area during the First and Second World Wars.
- Encourage your pupils to find other important sites located nearby – e.g. Newhaven's seaplane base, RAF Friston, HMS Forward (South Heighton)
- Investigate the importance of the south coast during the Second World War.
- Look at the protection of food ships during the conflict. Why it was so important?
- Do an internet search for images of your local area during the war

Evacuees

- Read extracts from *Goodnight Mr Tom* by Michelle Magorian or watch the DVD. What was life like for a child who was evacuated during the war?
- To enhance your visit you might want to investigate how children of the 1940s dressed and 'make do and mend' your own costume to wear for your visit.



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Rationing

- Find out about rationing during the Second World War. It had an impact on all aspects of life. Imagine getting married in the war. Find out what you would have used as a dress - where would the material come from? Would you want a cake? How would you have decorated it? Remember, there was no sugar! What food would you have at the reception?

Memories and personal stories

- Remind your pupils that they are going to discover what life was like for Newhaven residents during the war. They might like to find out what life was like for your area.
- Ask your pupils if they have any Grandparents or Great-Grandparents who remember growing up during the war or in the years just after. They might have stories to tell about rationing or being evacuated. They may be able to tell the pupils about their own parents' experiences. Ask your pupils if any of them have any photos or personal items you might like to share with the class.

Vocabulary

- Familiarise yourself and your pupils with key vocabulary that might be used during the visit. For example: Casemate, Home Front, Evacuee, Rationing, Home Guard