

World War II Map Activities

Rationing

Read the paragraph below about wartime rationing and complete one activity in each of the six categories that follow.

A popular motto during World War II was “Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.” It served as a reminder to everyone on the home front to do his/her part for the war effort. Soldiers’ needs came before those of Americans at home. In order to ensure that our soldiers would not lack essential supplies, a system of rationing was instituted. Food rationing started gradually with items like sugar and coffee but soon progressed into a fairly complicated system of points and coupons. The Office of Price Controls, or the OPC, was created to set limits on items. It initiated the rationing of a wide variety of items including food, gasoline, and even shoes. Each American was given a set number of ration coupons per month. Coupons worth blue points were used to purchase processed foods, such as canned vegetables, jellies, and bottled tomato juice. Red point coupons were needed to buy meat, butter, cheese, and other fats. When a particular item was purchased, the correct number of coupons had to be turned in, along with the purchase price. Updated tables kept consumers informed of food point values. For example, a sirloin steak might cost 13 red stamps, while a can of fruit cocktail might cost ten blue stamps. These rationing schedules changed often due to supply and demand.

1. Knowledge

- a. Define the term rationing.
- b. Make a chart listing some items that could be purchased with blue points and red points.

2. Comprehension

- a. Describe how items were rationed during World War II.
- b. Explain the purpose of rationing during WW II.

3. Application

- a. Tell how you would react if rationing were instituted in the U.S. today.
- b. Explain how rationing at home helped the soldiers at war.

4. Analysis

- a. Research the topic of rationing and make a list of ten things that were not rationed.
- b. Tell what conclusions you can draw about rationing and its effects on everyday life.

5. Synthesis

- a. Create a rationing plan for your classroom supplies.
- b. Compose a new motto to remind people to do their part for the war effort.

6. Evaluation

- a. Write an argument for reinstating the rationing of gasoline.
- b. Make a list and then compare the pros and cons of rationing.