

Local History

Historic England and Teacher's Pet have come together to bring you a collection of free resources that you can use in your local history teaching.



Historic England



Teacher's Pet

Who are Teacher's Pet?

Teacher's Pet have been providing downloadable and playable educational content to early years and primary school teachers for over 14 years. We cover all areas of the curriculum and use a team of in-house teachers and designers to create engaging and memorable concepts, that the children will love.

Why local history?

At [Teacher's Pet](#) we want to empower primary school teachers by giving them the tools they need to deliver inspiring and thoughtful lessons about the local area and its history. We believe local history teaching has such an important part to play in a child's wellbeing – helping to give children a sense of pride in where they live.

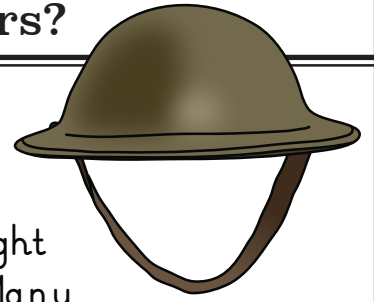
Our Local History project is designed to provide teachers across the UK with everything they need to successfully carry out a full scheme of teaching about their local area, through key enquiry questions and source led activities.

Working with [Historic England](#) gives us access to archived maps and photos for resources and information from knowledgeable local historians, as well helping us to provide the content to you free of charge.

For more information about our Local History project or to find out more about Teacher's Pet Classroom Resources, please visit our website.

? What part did Luton play in the World Wars?

World War II Luton



World War 2 was fought between 1939 and 1945. The Allies led by the United Kingdom, USSR and the United States fought against the Axis Powers led by Germany, Italy and Japan. Many other countries were also involved on both sides. Luton played a vital role in the United Kingdom's war efforts.

Away at War

During the Second World War, many people from Luton were sent to fight in locations around the world. More than 700 people from Luton were killed while serving. Most served in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment which had changed its name from the Bedfordshire Regiment after World War I. They served in the Middle East, India and North Africa before returning home.

At Home

Luton Airport opened in 1938, the year before World War 2 broke out. During the war it was a base for the 264 Fighter Squadron and was also used for designing and building aircraft.

Many factories in the town supported the war effort by making vital supplies. This included the Vauxhall factory that stopped making cars and built Churchill tanks, named after Winston Churchill. This made Luton a target for German bombers and the town suffered from 24 air raids during the war. As a result, 107 people were killed and over 500 were injured.

Evacuees

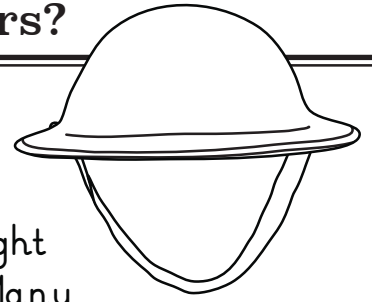
At the start of the war, the government came up with a plan to evacuate children from London to areas less likely to be bombed. Under Operation Pied Piper, as it was known, 36,000 children were sent to Bedfordshire with many staying in Luton.

The children lived with families and went to local schools. There was not enough room for all of the evacuees and children already in Luton schools so the school day would be split in half with some children attending in the morning and the rest going in the afternoon. Some of those who were not in school would go for lessons in Wardown Park for the other half of the day. If it rained they would go inside the museum.



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