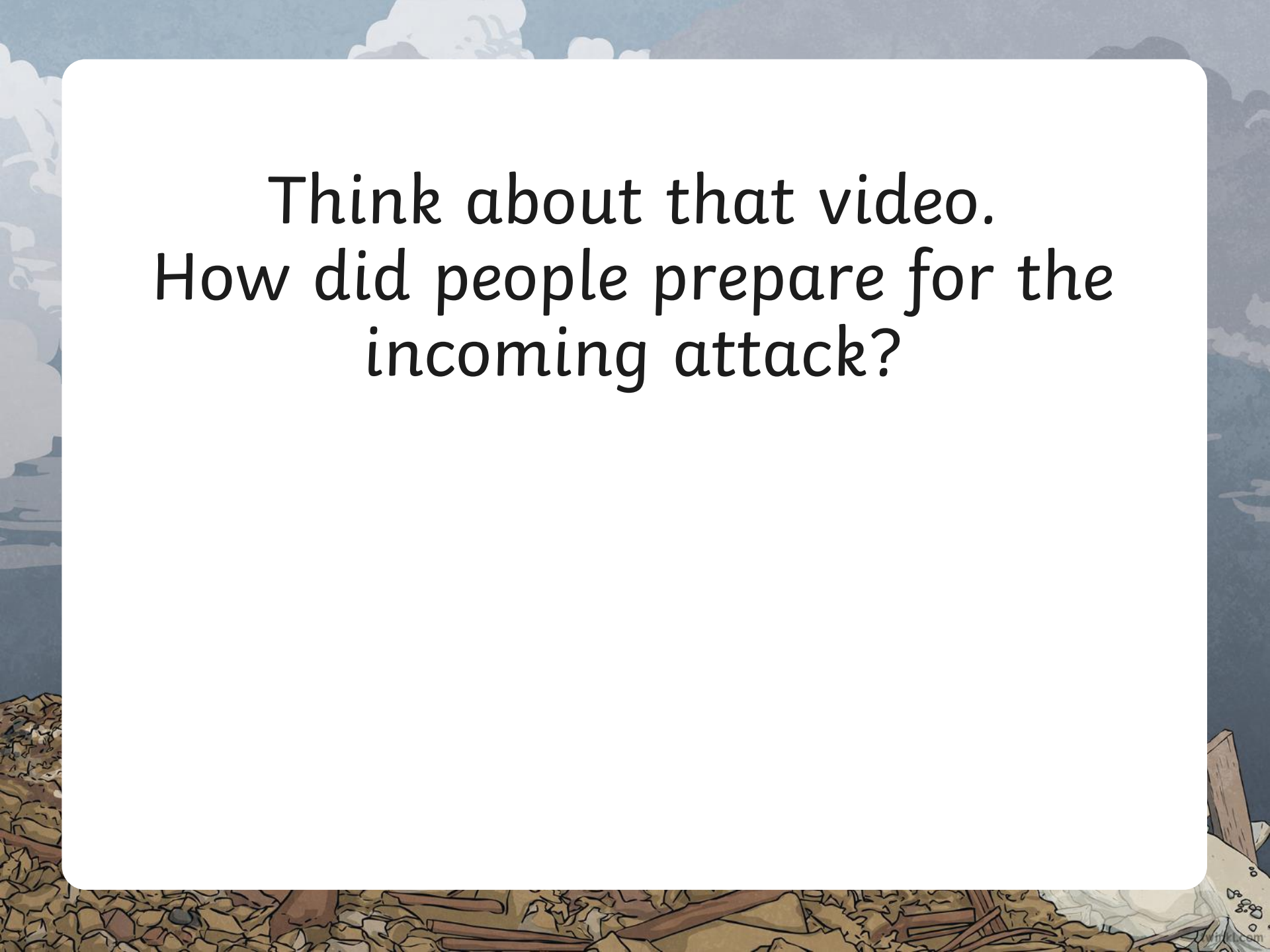


Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

LQ: How did people prepare themselves during The Blitz?

Watch this short clip which recaps some key information about The Blitz and reminds us about how people prepared themselves for these attacks:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1VwY\\_UxXkYU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1VwY_UxXkYU)

The background of the slide features a dark, moody illustration. At the top, there are stylized, billowing clouds in shades of grey and blue. Below the clouds, the scene transitions into a depiction of a city in a state of total devastation. The foreground and middle ground are filled with a chaotic pile of rubble, including broken bricks, twisted metal, and splintered wooden beams. The overall color palette is muted, consisting of greys, blues, and browns, which conveys a sense of tragedy and the aftermath of a catastrophic event.

Think about that video.  
How did people prepare for the  
incoming attack?

# Staying Safe Shelters

Some people built Anderson shelters in their gardens. These were made from strong steel sheets with soil over the top. There would often be a bench inside where people could sleep and a small entrance at one end. The Anderson Shelter protected them from flying bricks, wood and glass if a building nearby was hit by a bomb and exploded. But the shelter could not protect them from a direct hit from a bomb.





Some families put beds, cupboards and a stove in their shelter to make it more homely.



These two photos show an Anderson Shelter with beds, seating, stove, cupboards and paraffin lamps.

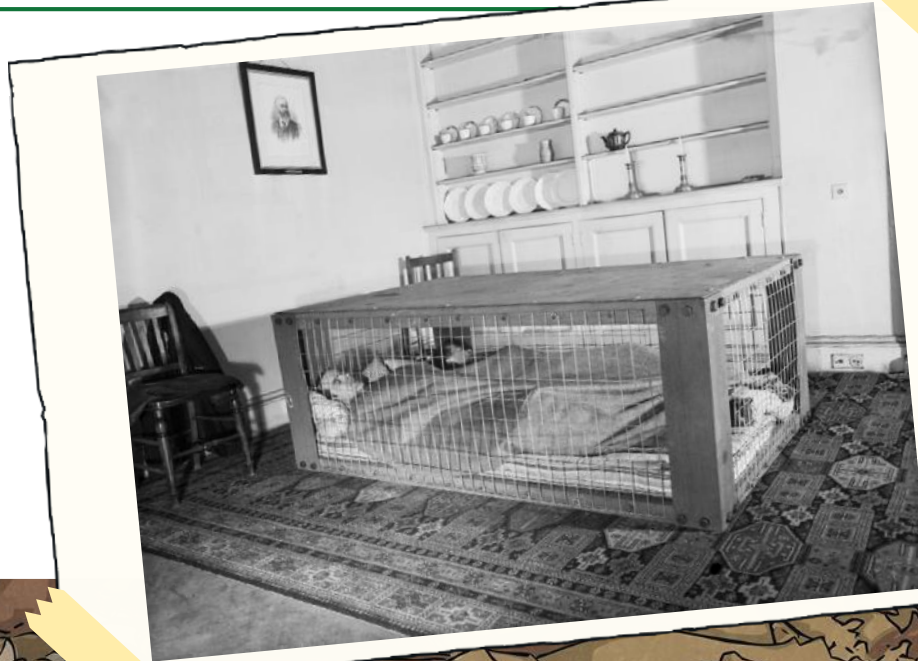
The black and white photo was taken in 1941. These children are clearly enjoying sleeping in the Air Raid shelter.

In summer many children would sleep in their Anderson Shelter; it was exciting and fun - and frightening when the bombs were dropping!

# Staying Safe Shelters

From 1941 onwards, people could have a Morrison shelter which was kept indoors. It looked like a cage with steel mesh around the sides and a thick sheet of steel on the top. People would sleep inside it, although it was quite squashed.

The Morrison shelter was very strong and even if the ceiling collapsed above, usually the people inside would be safe.



# Staying Safe

There were also public shelters which were made of brick. They were often dark and smelly.

People in London spent the nights in the underground shelters, sleeping on the platforms.





Every single man, woman and child was also given a *Gas Mask* at the beginning of the war in 1939.

The British Government thought that if the Germans attacked Britain they would use Gas bombs. These bombs would explode and release a poisonous gas. People were given gas masks and trained how to put them on quickly and how to carry-on with their work while wearing them.



Children's 'Mickey Mouse' Gas Mask and box



THE CIVILIAN RESPIRATOR—HOW TO ADJUST IT



**Hitler will send  
no warning –  
so always carry  
your gas mask**



A policeman hands out Gas Masks



A child is fitted with a gas mask by an Air-Raid Warden

# Staying Safe

Children were evacuated and had to leave their parents. They were sent to live in the countryside where they were safer from the raids than in the cities.







# Staying Safe

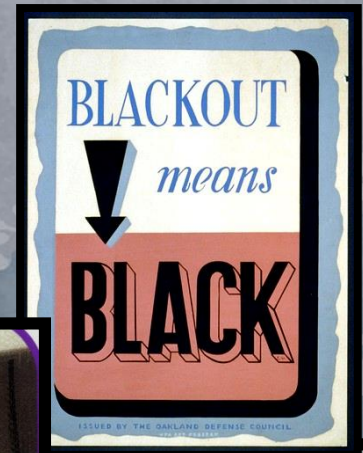
The government ordered that after dark, street lights must be turned off, cars had to have special headlamps and people had to cover their windows and doors to stop any light so that German bombers did not know where they were.



Every house in Britain had to cover the glass of its windows with tape, to stop the glass flying into the room if there was a nearby bomb explosion. They also had to hang up thick, black curtains to block out all the light from their house at night.



Taped window glass stops glass shattering in bomb explosion



A family is visited by an Air-Raid Protection Officer to check their black-out curtains and their other Blitz preparations

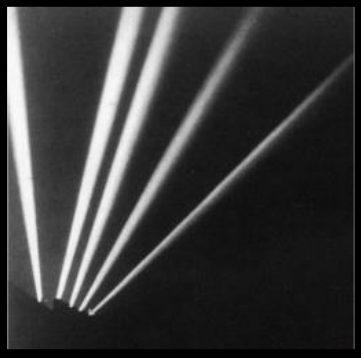


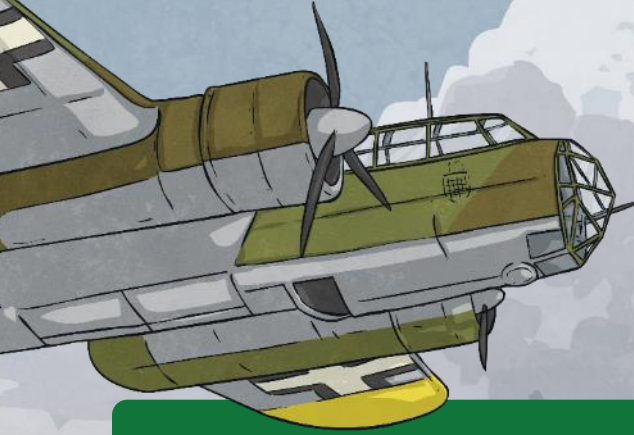


Air-Raid Wardens had a very important job to make sure that British people were as safe as possible from German bombing raids.

Their job included:

- Looking out for German bombers.
- Sounding the Air-Raid Siren to warn people of a bombing raid.





# Life During the Blitz

Thousands of people lost their lives during the Blitz and thousands more were seriously injured.

Shelters were cold and uncomfortable, which meant that people did not sleep well.

The emergency services, such as the fire fighters and ambulance crews, had to try to save people while bombs were being dropped around them and buildings were collapsing.

Sometimes, unexploded bombs would be left in the streets and had to be made safe before anyone could go near them.



# Why Did the Raids Stop?

The Blitz ended on 16th May 1941 when the German bombers were ordered to fly to Russia. Germany was planning to invade Russia next.



The background of the entire page is a stylized illustration of a city in ruins. In the foreground, there is a large pile of rubble, including broken bricks, stones, and wooden planks. In the middle ground, several tall, jagged spires of damaged buildings rise against a hazy, grey sky. To the right, a portion of a large, classical-style building with arched windows remains standing. The overall tone is somber and depicts the aftermath of a major disaster.

# Life After the Blitz

Adolf Hitler had planned that the raids would scare Britain so that they would give into defeat. He was wrong.

Cities had suffered terrible damage with homes and buildings destroyed. However, people worked together over the years that followed to rebuild houses, homes and their cities.



Finally, watch this video which explains another man's journey through WWII.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4idj7fI6OZg>