

WORLD WAR II

ON THE HOMEFRONT

PHOTO GALLERY

ACTIVITY



DIRECTIONS

STEP 1: Read the background paragraph on the effort on the American Homefront to win World War II

STEP 2: Move along the photo gallery station to station in numerical order analyzing the photographs from World War 2. **(4 mins max)**

STEP 3: As you go, answer the questions provided for each photograph



BACKGROUND

After the December 7, 1941, Japanese attack on the American naval fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the U.S. was thrust into World War II and everyday life across the country was dramatically altered. Food, gas and clothing were rationed. Communities conducted scrap metal drives. To help build the armaments necessary to win the war, women found employment as electricians, welders and riveters in defense plants. Japanese Americans had their rights as citizens stripped from them. People in the U.S. grew increasingly dependent on radio reports for news of the fighting overseas. And, while popular entertainment served to demonize the nation's enemies, it also was viewed as an escapist outlet that allowed Americans brief respites from war worries.

The fear of attack translated into a ready acceptance by a majority of Americans of the need to sacrifice in order to achieve victory. During the spring of 1942, a rationing program was established that set limits on the amount of gas, food and clothing consumers could purchase. Families were issued ration stamps that were used to buy their allotment of everything from meat, sugar, fat, butter, vegetables and fruit to gas, tires, clothing and fuel oil. The United States Office of War Information released posters in which Americans were urged to "Do with less—so they'll have enough" ("they" referred to U.S. troops). Meanwhile, individuals and communities conducted drives for the collection of scrap metal, aluminum cans and rubber, all of which were recycled and used to produce armaments. Individuals purchased U.S. war bonds to help pay for the high cost of armed conflict. Every American was asked to help fight the war by changing the way they lived their lives at home, and Americans were up to the challenge.

DIRECTIONS

AS A RESULT OF THE WORK OF PHOTOJOURNALISTS, THERE IS A LARGE PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION THAT SHOWS VARIOUS CHANGES IN AMERICAN LIFE DURING WORLD WAR II. YOUR JOB IS TO VISIT EACH OF THE STATIONS LISTED BELOW AND EXAMINE ALL OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS AND ANSWER THE CORRESPONDING QUESTIONS. BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS YOUR FINDINGS WITH THE CLASS.

STATIONS

- 1. BATTLE STATIONS!**
- 2. RUBBER DRIVE**
- 3. FOOD IS A WEAPON**
- 4. GROW YOUR OWN**
- 5. A VICTORY HOME**
- 6. I'M PROUD**
- 7. SHE'S A WOW**
- 8. THE VICTORY CREED**
- 9. US WAR STAMPS**
- 10. ROSIE THE RIVETER**

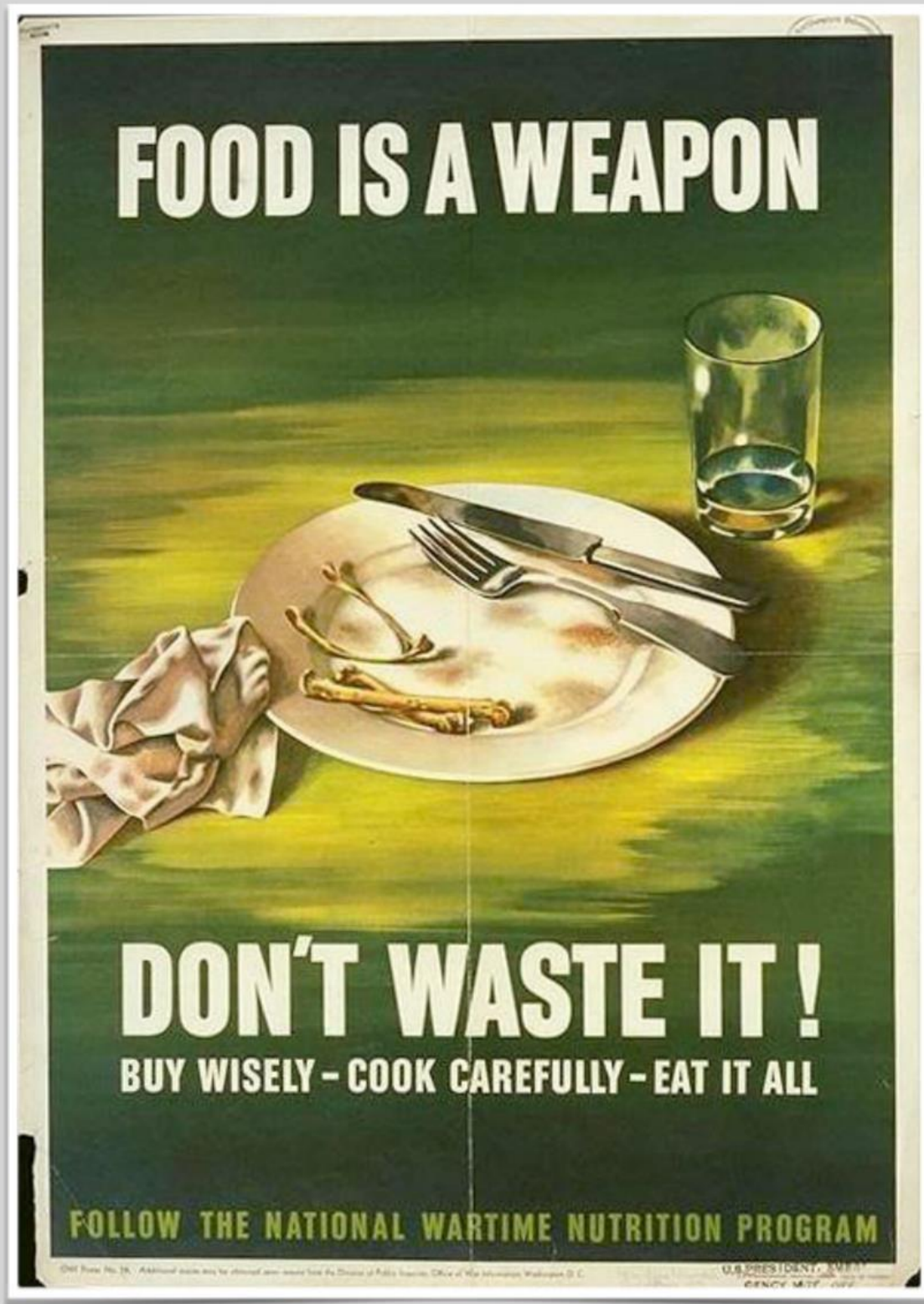


STATION 1: BATTLE STATIONS!

Poster depicting a man going to work to help win the battle that he can.



Children collecting rubber to recycle during the war. The rubber could be recycled into boots, used in gas masks, and used to make tank treads.



STATION 3: FOOD IS A WEAPON

The National Wartime Nutrition Program was created to educate people on good nutrition especially when food is scarce.

"We'll have lots to eat this winter, won't we Mother?"

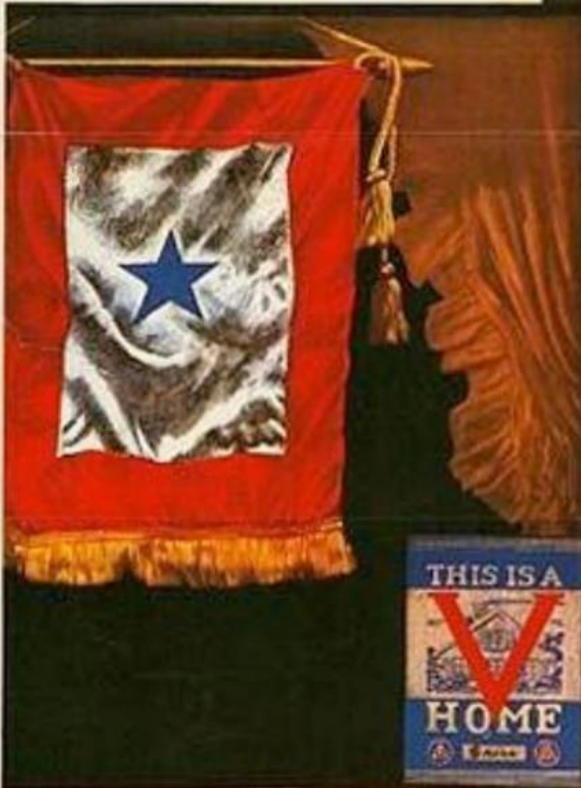


**Grow your own
Can your own**

STATION 4: GROW YOUR OWN

As food supplies were short during the war due to the need to send food to the soldiers, people were asked to grow and can their own food.

HELP BRING THEM BACK TO YOU!



**Find time for war
work**

**Raise and share
food**

**Walk and carry
packages**

**Conserve every-
thing you have**

**Save 10% in War
Bonds**

MAKE YOURS

A VICTORY HOME!

STATION 5: A VICTORY HOME

Americans were asked to do their part to help win the war. Emphasis on winning the war at home is central to this poster.



*I'm Proud... my husband
wants me to do my part*

**SEE YOUR U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION**

STATION 6: I'M PROUD

Poster created by the War Manpower Commission encouraging women to get involved in working during the war.



STATION 7: SHE'S A WOW

The Woman Ordnance Worker was a group created for women who created weapons for men on the battlefield. This poster was created by artist Adolph Treidler.

A Victory Creed for 43



I shall be regular in my attendance because every unnecessary day I take off is a red letter day for the enemy.



I shall be thrifty with my time, giving every working hour 60 minutes.



I shall be careful of my work so that neither waste nor delay shall endanger the life of a Navy man.



I shall be loyal to my job and my country, remembering that tomorrow's front line victories begin on the production lines today.

PRODUCE FOR YOUR NAVY

Victory Begins at Home!

STATION 8: THE VICTORY CREED

A lot was expected of American citizens and posters like these were designed to help motivate Americans to do their part for the war.

**“Even a little
can help a lot -*NOW*”**



Buy

U.S. WAR STAMPS & BONDS

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1943 - O - 453025 FORM 943-108

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF LADIES' HOME JOURNAL

STATION 9: US WAR STAMPS

In an effort to pay for the war, the US government sold war stamps and bonds. This was an investment that US citizens could make in the country to help finance the war. They would receive extra money later when the war was over as compensation for their investment.



STATION 10: ROSIE THE RIVETER

Compare these two images from 1943 of a woman war worker. The one on the left was painted by Norman Rockwell and appeared on the cover of the popular weekly magazine Saturday Evening Post. Graphic artist J. Howard Miller for the Westinghouse Corporation produced the one on the right.