

Children Aid the War Effort

Goal: Students will learn about the many ways in which children assisted the war effort and will attempt to quantify the impact of children's activities supporting the war.

Objectives:

- 1) Students will complete seven math problems relating to children's activities in the war effort.
- 2) Students will be able to name at least two ways in which children assisted in the war effort.
- 3) Students will practice the skills of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and long division.

Although children did not fight on the front lines of World War II, they did play an important part in supporting the war effort. For example, children helped to collect scrap metal, rubber, and paper which could be recycled into items such as weapons, ammunition, and tires for jeeps and tanks. Meanwhile, children in organizations such as the Minute Maids (a group similar to the Girl Scouts or the Camp Fire Girls) sold war stamps or bonds. Buying war stamps or bonds was like giving the government a loan. Each stamp cost 10¢ and could be saved toward an \$18.87 war bond. The government promised the purchasers of bonds that in ten years they could cash their bond in for \$25.00. In the meantime, the government could use the money to finance the war. Schools and groups like the Minute Maids sponsored rallies, parades, and other events like dances at which war stamps and bonds would be sold.

In addition to collecting scrap and selling stamps and bonds children also volunteered at the Red Cross to wrap bandages and put together kits of items for children made homeless by the war; knit sweaters, socks, and blankets for soldiers; helped to harvest crops when there was a shortage of workers; and made model airplanes used to train spotters to recognize enemy aircraft. Complete the following math activities to see just how much children's contributions mattered.

1) War stamps cost 10¢ each. Children and adults saved stamps towards the purchase of war bonds that cost \$18.87 each. How many stamps were needed to purchase a war bond? How many cents of a 10¢ stamp would be left over?

2) How much money (interest) would be gained if after ten years, you cashed in your \$18.87 bond for \$25.00? What is the amount of interest gained each year?

3) If you were able to save four 10¢ stamps every week, how many weeks would it take you to be able to purchase a war bond?

4) In Chicago, Wednesday was “paper day.” That is, on Wednesdays, Chicago children would collect newspapers for recycling. Over 5 months, they collected 18,000 tons of paper. One ton = 2,000 lbs. How many pounds of paper equals 18,000 tons?

5) On average, how many tons of paper were collected each month? How many pounds does this equal?

6) During one week, children from 21 Phoenix, Arizona schools collected 30,680 Lbs. of paper. What is the average amount collected from each school? Round off to the nearest pound.

7) What was the average number of pounds collected at each school per day? Round off to the nearest hundredth pound.