

ACTIVITY SHEET

THE LEICESTER BLITZ

The Leicester Blitz exhibition commemorates the 80th anniversary of the intense bombings which fell on the city during November 1940.

Stories of local people living through the bomb attacks are told through photographs of bombed streets, factory ruins and rescue scenes.



Use the following prompts as you look around the exhibition to help you imagine what it was like to live through The Blitz.

- What sort of places were targeted for bombing and why do you think this was?
- It was dangerous to live in a city. Bombs could destroy houses and factories within seconds. Most of the bombings took place under the cover of darkness. Describe your terror as the bombs fell – what would you see, hear, think, feel, smell? How would you feel if you returned home to find it flattened?
- What are Anderson shelters? Look for one in the photographs. They were dark and cramped. How would you feel sleeping in one?
- Would you go to a shelter every time the air raid siren sounded or when you heard bombers overhead, or would you wait until you knew it was an attack?
- Many people played games in the air raid shelters, both because they were bored and to distract them from what might be happening outside the shelter. What games would you play?
- Anderson shelters are small so you would not be able to take many things with you.

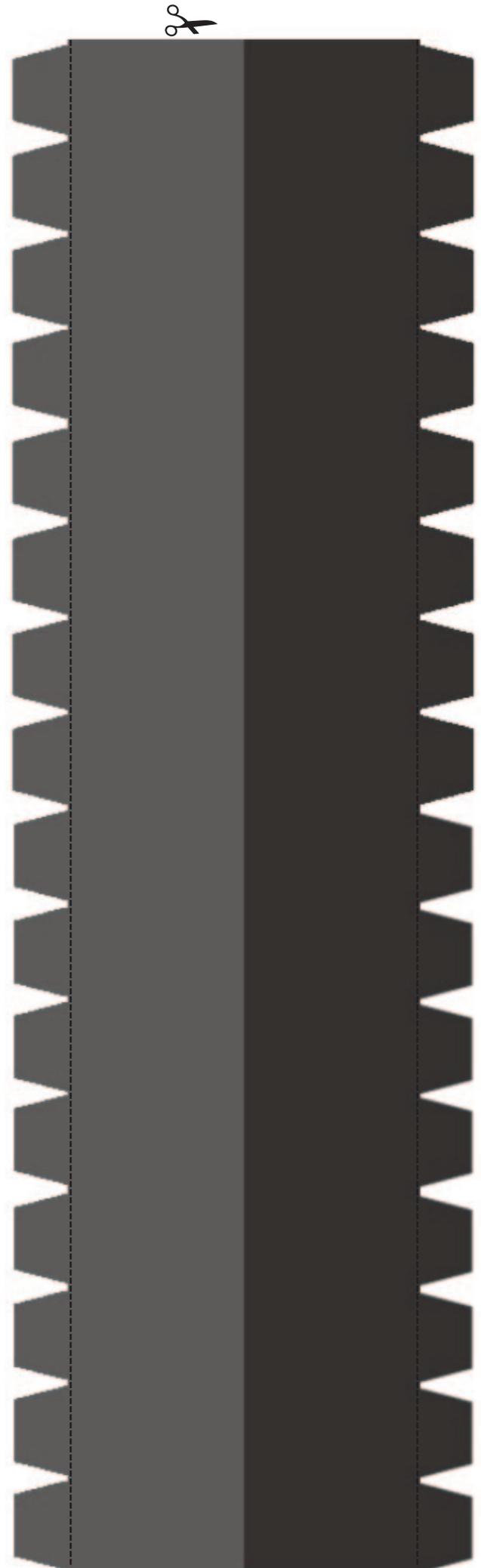
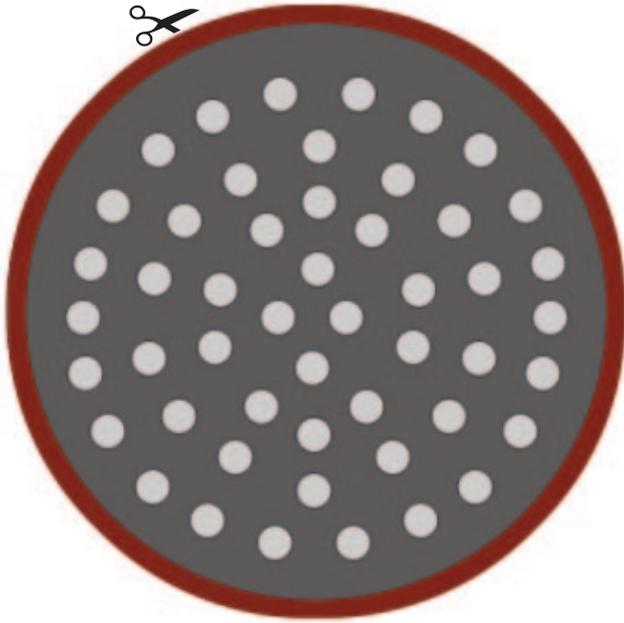
Draw one possession that you would take with you ↷

MAKE YOUR OWN GAS MASK

The threat of poisonous gas being dropped from enemy aeroplanes would kill hundreds of people.

As protection, the government provided everyone with a gas mask which had to be carried at all times.





- Stick the templates onto thin card.
- Cut around the edge of the mask and cut out the eye holes and respirator hole.
- Cut out the rectangular shape to make the cylindrical respirator, carefully cutting around the zig-zag tabs.
- Glue or tape one set of the tabs through the respirator hole, attaching them to the mask.
- Cut out the circular respirator and attach to the other set of tabs.
- Use a hole punch to punch the holes on either side of the mask.
- Attach cord or elastic long enough to fit around your head to the holes.
- Your mask is ready to wear!

