

Technology - Activity 3

What can we learn from Kelvedon Hatch?

Aims

- Understand the reasons for the construction of bunkers like Kelvedon Hatch
- Investigate and explain one Cold War site in detail
- Use evidence to construct a well-supported and persuasive argument

Resources

coldwarTEA3.lgfl.net is your one-stop link to curriculum resources for this activity; you will find videos, photographs and links to the relevant main Cold War sections.

Introduction

During the Cold War, the threat of nuclear annihilation was constant. It was something people learned to live with and, for the most part, not think about too much. But for some people, it was their job to do just that – they had to consider how likely nuclear war was, how to protect the government to survive it, and what actions to take after a nuclear attack.

Technology - Activity 3

Step 1 – Did the government really think it could survive and continue to run the country after a nuclear attack?

View the following video clips at coldwarTEA3.lgfl.net and complete the table to answer the question above, using evidence in the way a historian would:

Clip	Yes/No	The government thought this because...
Introduction to the bunker		
Walk into bunker		
How did you end up owning a nuclear bunker?		
Explanation about bunker construction		
The bunker corridor		
Why did the entrance have armed guards?		
How could messages be sent from within the bunker?		
The Strong Room		
The Operations Room		
How did government communicate with the public services?		
Radio broadcasts from the bunker		

Technology - Activity 3

Step 2 - Can we imagine what it would have been like to be hit by a nuclear attack?

Historians always need to consider the validity and usefulness of different sources of information. Complete the table below (resources are at coldwarTEA3.lgfl.net), considering:

- What useful information does it provide?
- Is it a contemporary source or later interpretation? Is it therefore more / less useful?
- Does it tell us about the whole population or just a small group?
- Does it help us to understand particular issues, e.g. how the government prepared, how people responded, etc.?
- Do you agree that all sources are useful – it just depends what question we are asking?

	Strengths	Limitations	Rating 1-5
Protect and survive Booklet			
AR blast London			
AR nuclear bunker			
Photographs			

✂-----

Step 2 - Can we imagine what it would have been like to be hit by a nuclear attack?

Historians always need to consider the validity and usefulness of different sources of information. Complete the table below (resources are at coldwarTEA3.lgfl.net), considering:

- What useful information does it provide?
- Is it a contemporary source or later interpretation? Is it therefore more / less useful?
- Does it tell us about the whole population or just a small group?
- Does it help us to understand particular issues, e.g. how the government prepared, how people responded, etc.?
- Do you agree that all sources are useful – it just depends what question we are asking?

	Strengths	Limitations	Rating 1-5
Protect and survive Booklet			
AR blast London			
AR nuclear bunker			
Photographs			

Technology - Activity 3

Step 3 – Bring Kelvedon Hatch to life

Kelvedon Hatch is now a Cold War museum. Visitors can walk around the bunker, view the rooms and get a sense of what it would have been like to have worked there. Imagine that the owner of the bunker is looking to improve the visitor experience by creating some audio guides. He would like you to write and record these guides for different sections of the bunker. Look through all of the resources and then use a framework like this to plan and script your audio guide. You may want to then upload it into VideoCentralHD.lgfl.net or podcasts.lgfl.net

Section of the audio guide	Suggested sound effects	Commentary visitor will hear
Background		
Walk into bunker		
The Communications Rooms		
The Strong Room		
The Operations Room		

Technology - Activity 3

The life support equipment		
Prime Minister's accommodation		
Hospital and Morgue		
Sleeping quarters		