



Group 2: Growing Up on Rations

Imagine your group is helping one of the Beatles write his autobiography. You will work in small groups and use your knowledge of history to help your Beatle enrich his book. Here are the guidelines:

- Below you will see your assigned historical term. Each group has a different term from a different period in their subject's life.
- You also have received sources related to that term.
- Use this information to write a paragraph of 3-5 sentences for your Beatle's autobiography.
- Your sentences should connect his life to the term and use the first person. For example, "I remember watching the ships come in to the Liverpool docks."
- Write your paragraph on the board or on a piece of paper large enough for the whole class to read.
- Share it with the class.
- As the other groups share their paragraphs, copy the story in your "Autobiography of a Beatle" handout.

Term: Rationing

Rationing occurs when the government restricts the amount of certain goods people can buy. For example, they might be allowed to buy only six ounces of meat per week. Citizens were given a "ration book" in which they had to show that they had not already bought a particular item before a merchant could sell it to them. Rationing was common during WWII. Britain continued to ration almost ten years after the war. John Lennon and Ringo Starr were 14 years old when rationing finally ended.

Source 1: Margret Hooker

"Born in 1947 I am too young to remember much about rationing but I do remember my mum and nan going with the books. Some things didn't come off rationing until I was maybe 4 or 5, I think sweets and sugar were in the later ones."

-- Source: WW2 People's War Website, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/>

Source 2: Montague Trout

"My uncle Ted [stayed] with a family in Antwerp during the war and continued the friendship after. In 1947, my mother, my sister Frances and I (aged 7/8) went to Antwerp for a holiday, three weeks. During the three weeks I saw and tasted sweets I had never seen before, bananas that were not available, brown soft sugar never seen before. They didn't suffer rationing. Dieticians have commented that the wartime diet was very good as it gave everybody a balanced healthy diet. Sugar was difficult to get as it was also on ration."

-- Source: WW2 People's War Website, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/>