

Topic 6: Life on the home front

Work Sheet 6F: Mix and Match

- 1 Working in pairs or small groups, cut out the images on *Work Sheet 6E* and the descriptions of each provided on this work sheet.

Study them closely and match the images with the descriptions. The web page address for each image is provided at the bottom of each description so that you can check your answers and find more information for some of the images.

Arrange the images and their descriptions into the following four categories:

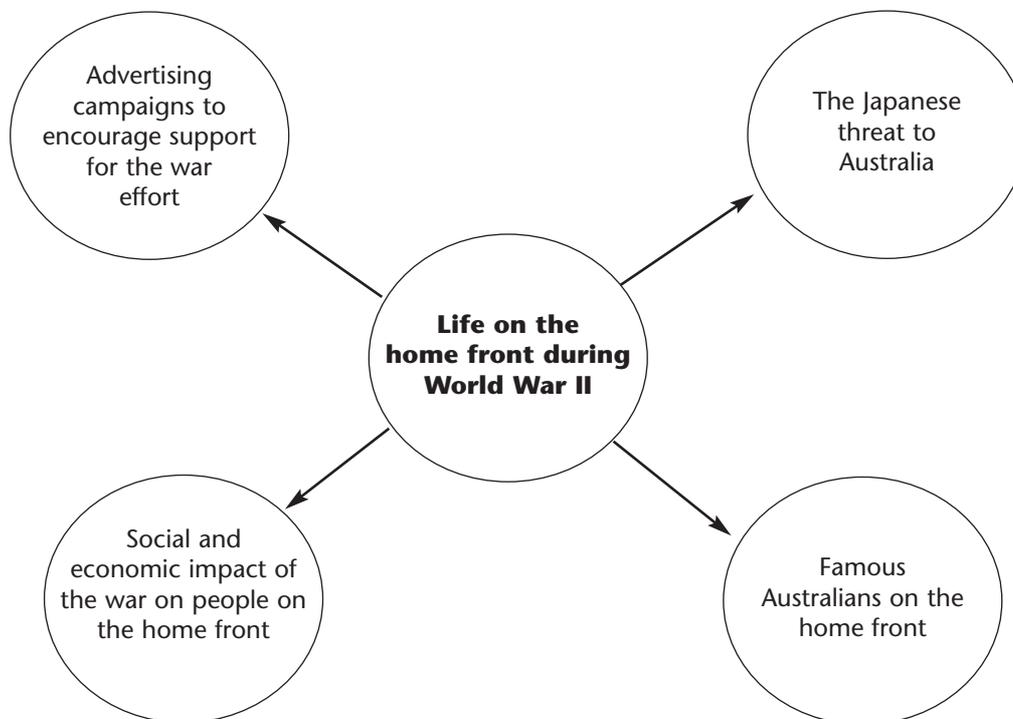
- The Japanese threat to Australia
- Advertising campaigns to encourage support for the war effort
- Social and economic impact of the war on people on the home front
- Famous Australians on the home front

Once you have sorted them into their categories, paste the images and their matching descriptions

onto the spaces provided on the Category Page of *Work Sheet 6E*. Use a new page for each category.

- 2 Other pairs or groups could arrange the images in a chronological sequence using the dates given in each of the descriptions.
- 3 The mind map below summarises the aspects of life on the home front that you will learn about in this activity. When you have completed your mix and match activity and have sorted the images and their descriptions into their categories, use the mind map to structure a descriptive report on 'Life on the home front during World War II'. Choose some examples from the images and descriptions as evidence to support your response.
- 4 Select all the images and descriptions that relate to women and write a paragraph explaining the role played by women on the home front during World War II.

Mind map of life on the home front during World War II



- A** Prime Minister Ben Chifley delivered a speech at the Victory Day celebrations at Canberra on 10 June 1946. In his speech he said 'Australia owes a great debt to those men and women [on the home front] who performed miracles of production in secondary and primary industries so that the battle of supply could be won.'
- www.ww2australia.gov.au/vevp**
- B** On 3 September 1939 Prime Minister Robert Menzies delivered a speech on radio announcing that Australia had declared war on Germany. Menzies was Prime Minister until August 1941 when he resigned. He was replaced briefly by Arthur Fadden until the election of a Labor government on 7 October 1941. The new Prime Minister was John Curtin.
- www.ww2australia.gov.au/wardeclared**
- C** Recycling of materials was an important part of the war effort. New clothes were in short supply, so thousands of women helped out by joining voluntary emergency service organisations such as the Civilian Emergency War Clothing Scheme featured in this *Movietone* newsreel. They put their 'peaceful fingers' to work making children's clothes out of soldiers' damaged uniforms.
- www.ww2australia.gov.au/allin**
- D** By the end of 1942, thousands of women had joined the women's auxiliary services – the WAAAF (Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force – featured in this poster), the AWAS (Australian Women's Army Service) and the WRANS (Women's Royal Australian Naval Service). Posters like this one were very successful in mobilising Australia's women for the war effort.
- www.ww2australia.gov.au/allin**
- E** After Japanese advances in the Pacific and air raids on Darwin between 1941 and 1942, the government established Emergency Services to prepare for further Japanese air raids. Men who were too old to fight became air raid wardens, responsible for helping coordinate air raid emergency procedures and ensure blackout restrictions were obeyed. Instructions were issued to the public on how to build air-raid shelters and the procedures to be followed in the event of an air raid.
- www.ww2australia.gov.au/allin**
- F** This famous photograph suggests the impact of war on the women who stayed behind. These women have just farewelled their men who are sailing off to fight in the war. The ship in this photo is the troop transport *Strathallan* that sailed from Melbourne in December 1939 with the Second Australian Imperial Force (AIF) advance party.
- www.ww2australia.gov.au/wardeclared**
- G** This poster shows the important role played by women in Australia's war effort. They are being encouraged to join the women's defence forces that were first formed in 1941. The government did not intend to send women into battle. They wanted them to work at clerical and other jobs so that men doing these jobs could be released for combat duty. Members of the women's services were paid two thirds of the male rate of pay.
- www.ww2australia.gov.au/wardeclared**
- H** This cartoon was published on 9 January 1942. It shows the Japanese threat to Australia after the attack on American ships at Pearl Harbor in December 1941. The Japanese began their advance southwards soon after. It was the first time in our history that Australia faced an enemy attack on our own shores.
- www.ww2australia.gov.au/japadvance**
- I** This photograph shows Prime Minister John Curtin with the American General Douglas MacArthur at the end of December 1941. They are discussing the preparations for Australian soldiers to join American soldiers in fighting the Japanese in the Pacific. This meeting marks the beginning of our alliance with the US that has continued to this day.
- www.ww2australia.gov.au/japadvance**
- J** This oil on canvas painting of Darwin Harbour by the artist Ray Honisett depicts the graphic events of the first Japanese air raid on Darwin on 19 February 1942. Darwin was subjected to a further 63 bombing raids, intermittently, until the last in November 1943. None were as devastating as this first one.
- www.ww2australia.gov.au/underattack**

K People on the home front helped protect Australia from Japanese air raids by manning these anti-aircraft batteries around our coastline. This painting shows two gunners operating an anti-aircraft battery (with Lewis machine guns mounted on a swivelling stand) during the Japanese air raid on Darwin on 19 February 1942.

www.ww2australia.gov.au/underattack

L On 14 May 1943 the hospital ship AHS *Centaur* was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine off the coast of Queensland. Of the 332 crew and medical personnel (including 12 nurses) on board the ship, only 64 (including one nurse) survived. This poster was published to arouse the Australian public to increase their support for the war against Japan.

www.ww2australia.gov.au/waratsea

M This photograph shows how World War II affected the lives of children. The children pictured here are Jennifer Purtell (7 years) and Maxwell Reece (12 years). They are looking at the Distinguished Service Medals (DSM), which they have accepted on behalf of their fathers who were missing in action. The medals were given at a ceremony on 2 April 1943. The fathers were later confirmed to have been killed in action at sea.

www.ww2australia.gov.au/waratsea

N Voluntary organisations such as the Red Cross featured in the poster, played an important role in World War II. On the home front, Red Cross volunteers worked in hospitals throughout Australia and also supplied all personnel except for doctors and nurses for civil emergency hospitals and first aid posts. These Red Cross Aides cooked meals, carried out immunisation programs and organised blood donor drives.

www.ww2australia.gov.au/allin

O This damaged saucepan, now on display in the Australian War Memorial, was in one of the houses damaged by the Japanese bombardment of the eastern suburbs of Sydney on 8 June 1942. The Japanese submarine I-24 fired ten rounds at Sydney Harbour in a five-minute period. Only one of the shells exploded, in Bellevue Hill.

www.ww2australia.gov.au/underattack

P The need to supply soldiers with food and other resources during the war, reduced the supplies available for people on the home front. Rationing was introduced in 1942 to make sure that everyone, rich or poor, could buy the goods that were available. People were issued with a ration book containing coupons, which they gave to shopkeepers in order to buy goods.

www.ww2australia.gov.au/allin

Q Jack Davey recorded 'Our Air Raid Shelter' on 16 April 1942 in an era when his was probably the most familiar voice on Australian radio. Born in New Zealand, he joined 2GB in Sydney in 1934 after starting, like many radio personalities, on the vaudeville stage. During the 1940s his larrikin character appealed to Australian audiences and he could be heard on newsreels and seen on stages around Australia.

www.ww2australia.gov.au/allin

R When the war was finally over in 1945, thousands of Australian servicemen were able to return to their families in Australia. The relief and joy at finally being reunited with loved ones can be clearly seen in this photo. It shows Leading Aircraftsman K Parker, RAAF, an ex-prisoner of war of the Japanese greeting his mother and sister at Mascot Airport in Sydney after his return from Singapore.

www.ww2australia.gov.au/vevp

S Between 1939 when war broke out and the fall of Singapore in 1942 the Government issued posters like this one to encourage men on the home front to support the war by enlisting for service in the AIF. When the Japanese began their advance in the Pacific, thousands rushed to enlist. The Government introduced conscription (compulsory enlistment) at this time to ensure an adequate supply of men for the defence of Australia.

www.ww2australia.gov.au/wardeclared

T When Tom 'Diver' Derrick appeared on the front cover of the *Australian Women's Weekly* in May 1944, he became a national hero. His Victoria Cross, the fourth to be awarded during the Pacific war, was awarded at Sattelberg in New Guinea. Thomas Derrick VC DCM was killed in Borneo just eighteen months later.

www.ww2australia.gov.au/pushingback