

# WW2 Artefact Collection (HI10030)

This collection contains a variety of iconic WW2 artefacts. These detailed replicas will support and enhance your learning about the experiences of the war.



## Contents: -

1. 1 x WW2 Hurricane Lamp
2. 1 x Gas Attack Warning Rattle
3. 1 x WW2 Replica Incendiary Bomb
4. 5x Replica Victoria Crosses
5. 1 x Flash Card Set
6. 1 x 20<sup>th</sup> Century Timeline

*(Contents may vary)*

## Questions you could ask children about the artefacts

### **Initial Discussion**

- What is this object?
- Does it resemble anything the children have seen?
- What do you think the item was used for and by whom?
- Does anyone know what it is called?

Collect any other questions the children might have about the artefacts and display them as you try to find the answers through your learning sessions.

### **Other questions to consider:**

- What was life like in WW2?
- Why is it important to learn about the war?
- How does this object connect to the people involved in WW2?
- **What do the objects tell us about life in the wartime?** *This last question can be returned to at the end of the investigation.*

By asking these questions, you can encourage pupils to actively engage with the artefacts, explore their significance and develop a deeper understanding of WW2 and experiences.

## All About the Artefacts

### 1. Hurricane Lamp

Used in air raid shelters or in the home when the electricity was not working. Helps pupils understand about blackouts and air raid precautions.

*Create shelters and look at artefacts related to air raid shelters and the importance of blackout conditions to stay safe during air raids.*

### 2. Warning Rattle

Used by air raid wardens. Wardens were issued with the rattle to warn about gas attacks or air raids.

*Role-play air raid wardens and listen to and create the sounds and warning alarms from WW2.*

### 3. Incendiary Bomb

An accurate replica of an incendiary bomb dropped during WW2. The bombs were designed to start fires and burn down buildings. They were designed to break through tiles and lodge in the roof timbers, causing the building to burn. Examining these bombs help us to understand the scale and impact of the Blitz and the experiences of the war.

*Research the impact of the Blitz and present findings to the class.*

### 4. Victoria cross

The Victoria Cross was introduced in 1856. Before 1856 there were no awards for bravery open to all soldiers – it was expected all soldiers would do their best. Important officers might get a knighthood or be promoted. Queen Victoria and her husband, Prince Albert, thought all soldiers should have a chance of a medal if they had done something particularly brave whilst fighting the enemy. At first, civilians [i.e. people not part of the army or navy] could not win the Victoria Cross, but this was changed. Also, to begin with, you had to be alive to receive your medal. It was only in the Boer War [1899-1902] that it became possible to receive the VC if you were killed while fighting.

The Victoria Cross is awarded 'for valour.' Since it was introduced, 1357 awards have been made, and three people have won it twice. That means 1354 people – all men – have won the VC. 111 won the medal during the Crimean War, 628 in the First World War, 182 during World War Two and only 14 since 1945. The most recent was in 2012, when Lance Corporal James Ashworth showed 'courage beyond words' whilst fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan. Over 900 of the awards have been made in person by the King or Queen at the time, and another 300 by a member of the Royal Family. Each person who wins the medal gets an annual pension payment from the Government. Originally, in 1856 this was £10 per year, increased in 1898 to £50. Now, it is £1495 per year.

*Ask the children to look carefully at the replica Victoria Cross. What are the words on the medal? What do they mean? Why do they think the ribbon is purple? What might someone have to do to win a VC? 182 were awarded during the whole of WW2. Only three were awarded in England - two for air attacks and one for anti-aircraft work. What might it feel like to be awarded a VC? Most were handed over by the King or Queen - a real sign of bravery. You might ask the children to research some of the winners of the VC to help them work out what the words 'For Valour' mean.*

## 5. Flash Card Set

These can be used to learn about acts of bravery during the war. They can be used in a number of ways to help pupils remember key facts and concepts about World War 2.

*Use for a quiz on WW2 to review vocabulary, dates, events or key figures related to the war.*

## 6. Timeline

A 20<sup>th</sup> Century timeline to understand the chronology of events of the war. Use as a base for encouraging further research to delve deeper into what happened and the impact it had on those involved. Connect the artefacts to the timeline to help pupils to understand the context and sequence of events.

## Reference Websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zjnyscw>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/zjc8cqt>