

WALT: To understand how the London Underground was used as a bomb shelter during World War 2.



The tunnels of Tube stations were transformed into air raid shelters during World War 2, so people could escape the dangerous bombing raids.



When the air raid sirens sounded, crowds of Londoners would gather on the escalators, on the platforms or even on the tracks of the London Underground in a bid to keep safe. They were even willing to sleep there all night!

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Most people sheltering in the tube stations felt; cold, sad, afraid, worried, hungry and thirsty. Sometimes they had to sing songs to keep cheerful because they could still feel the vibrations of the explosions.

As this was so hard for the children who were sleeping in the tube, the adults even organised Christmas activities to cheer them up.



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Discuss the pictures you have found of war time London Underground shelters with an adult:

What can you see in the pictures?

Where are the people sleeping?

How many people do you think were sleeping there?

Why have they decided to sleep underground all night?

Would it have been comfortable or uncomfortable to sleep there?

Would you have enjoyed sleeping in a tube station?