

Local History - Reading in WW2 Timeline

Follow the instructions to build your own accordion timeline book and complete the pages with the correct images.

Reading at War 1939-1945



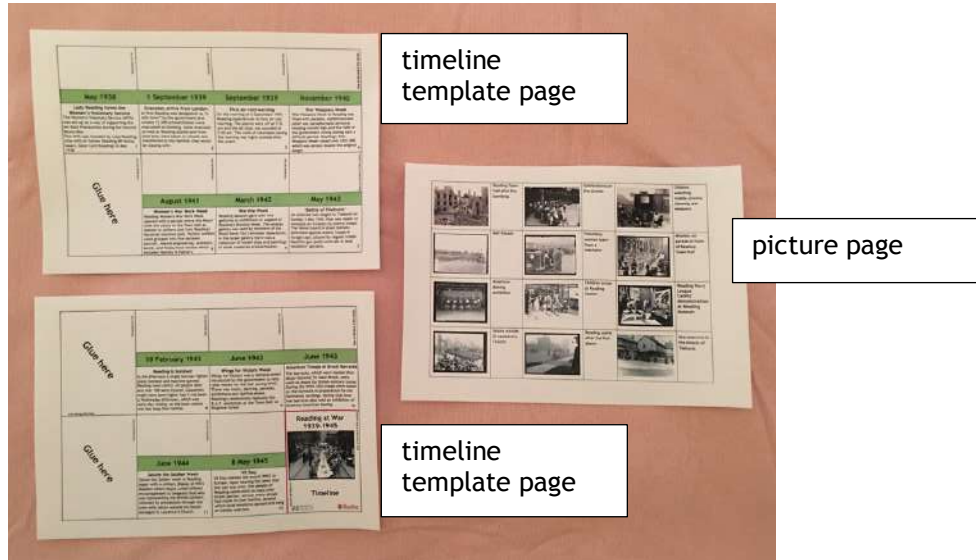
Timeline

Local History - Reading in WW2 Timeline

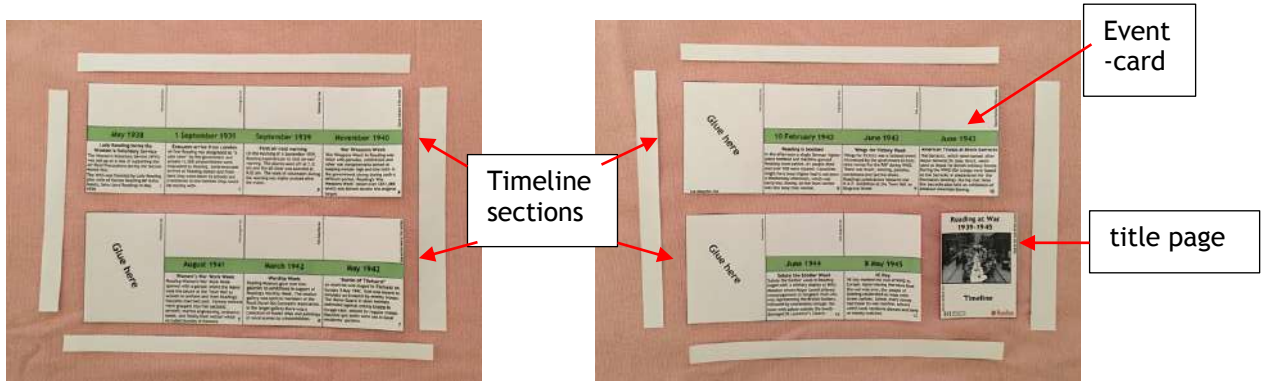
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Instructions to make your own concertina timeline-booklet

1. Print timeline template-pages and picture page.

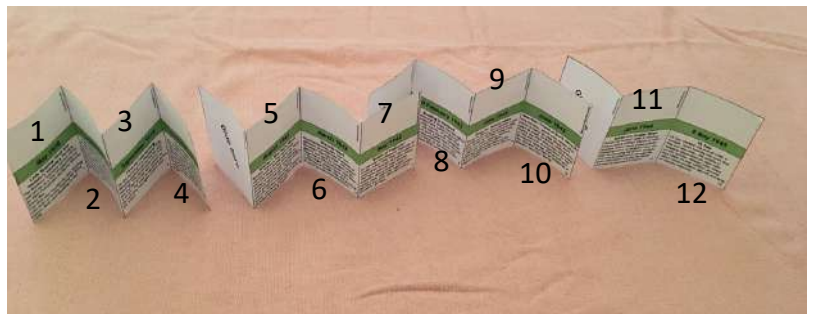


2. Cut out the timeline template-pages as below



3. You will have 4 timeline sections divided into event-cards numbered 1 to 12 and a title-page. Your timeline starts at number 1.

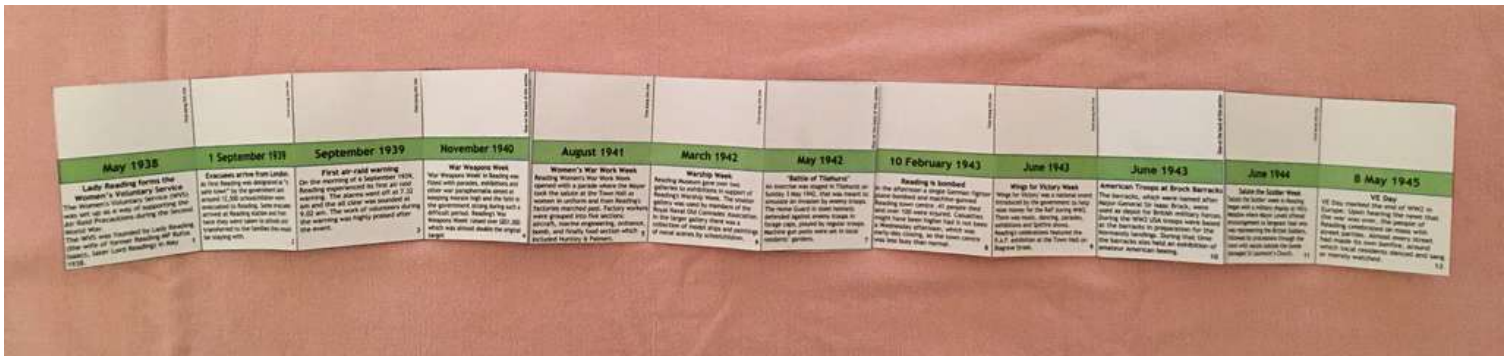
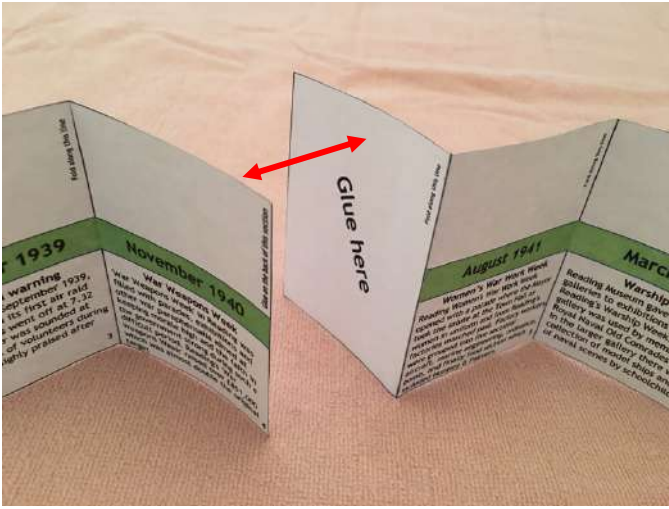
4. Fold all timeline sections concertina style according to the event-cards numbers



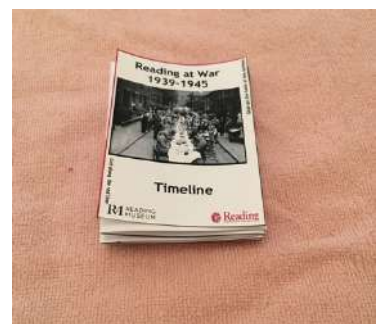
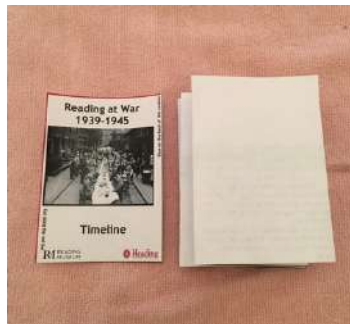
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5. Glue the timeline-sections together following the instructions



6. Close up the booklet. The back of event-card 1 is the cover of the booklet. Glue the title page onto it.



7. To complete the timeline cut out the images from the image page and glue the right image to each event-card using their captions as clues.

Have fun!

Timeline template-page 1

Fold along this line	Fold along this line	Fold along this line	Glue on the back of this section
May 1938	1 September 1939	September 1939	November 1940
<p>Lady Reading forms the Women's Voluntary Service The Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) was set up as a way of supporting the Air Raid Precautions during the Second World War. The WVS was founded by Lady Reading (the wife of former Reading MP Rufus Isaacs, later Lord Reading) in May 1938. 1</p>	<p>Evacuees arrive from London. At first Reading was designated as "a safe town" by the government and around 12,500 schoolchildren were evacuated to Reading. Some evacuees arrived at Reading station and from here they were taken to schools and transferred to the families they would be staying with. 2</p>	<p>First air-raid warning On the morning of 6 September 1939, Reading experienced its first air raid warning. The alarms went off at 7.32 am and the all clear was sounded at 9.02 am. The work of volunteers during the warning was highly praised after the event. 3</p>	<p>War Weapons Week 'War Weapons Week' in Reading was filled with parades, exhibitions and other war paraphernalia aimed at keeping morale high and the faith in the government strong during such a difficult period. Reading's 'War Weapons Week' raised over £851,000 which was almost double the original target 4</p>
Fold along this line	Fold along this line	Fold along this line	Glue on the back of this section
August 1941		March 1942	May 1942
<p>Women's War Work Week Reading Women's War Work Week opened with a parade where the Mayor took the salute at the Town Hall as women in uniform and from Reading's factories marched past. Factory workers were grouped into five sections: aircraft, marine engineering, ordnance, bomb, and finally food section which included Huntley & Palmers. 5</p>		<p>Warship Week Reading Museum gave over two galleries to exhibitions in support of Reading's Warship Week. The smaller gallery was used by members of the Royal Naval Old Comrades' Association. In the larger gallery there was a collection of model ships and paintings of naval scenes by schoolchildren. 6</p>	<p>'Battle of Tilehurst' An exercise was staged in Tilehurst on Sunday 3 May 1942, that was meant to simulate an invasion by enemy troops. The Home Guard in steel helmets defended against enemy troops in forage caps, played by regular troops. Machine gun posts were set in local residents' gardens. 7</p>

Glue here

<p style="transform: rotate(-45deg); font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">Glue here</p>	Fold along this line				Fold along this line		Fold along this line		Fold along this line		Glue on the back of this section
	Cut along this line	10 February 1943	June 1943	June 1943	8	9	9	10	10	10	Glue on the back of this section
	Fold along this line				Fold along this line				Fold along this line		Glue on the back of this section
<p style="transform: rotate(-45deg); font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">Glue here</p>	Cut along this line	June 1944	8 May 1945	8 May 1945	11	12	12	12	12	12	Glue on the back of this section
											Glue on the back of this section

Reading is bombed
In the afternoon a single German fighter plane bombed and machine-gunned Reading town centre .41 people died and over 100 were injured. Casualties might have been higher had it not been a Wednesday afternoon, which was early-day closing, so the town centre was less busy than normal.


Wings for Victory Week
'Wings for Victory' was a national event introduced by the government to help raise money for the RAF during WW2. There was music, dancing, parades, exhibitions and Spitfire shows. Reading's celebrations featured the R.A.F. exhibition at the Town Hall on Blagrave Street.

American Troops at Brock Barracks
The barracks, which were named after Major-General Sir Isaac Brock, were used as depot for British military forces. During the WW2 USA troops were based at the barracks in preparation for the Normandy landings. During that time the barracks also held an exhibition of amateur American boxing.

Salute the Soldier Week
'Salute the Soldier' week in Reading began with a military display at Hill's Meadow where Mayor Lovell offered encouragement to Sergeant Veal who was representing the British Soldiers, followed by processions through the town with salute outside the bomb-damaged St Laurence's Church.





VE Day
VE Day marked the end of WW2 in Europe. Upon hearing the news that the war was over, the people of Reading celebrated on mass with street parties. Almost every street had made its own bonfire, around which local residents danced and sang or merely watched.

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Timeline

Cut along the red line

	Reading Town Hall after the bombing.		Celebrations on the streets		Children watching mobile cinema showing war weapons
	RAF Parade		Voluntary women learn from a mechanic		Women on parade in front of Reading Town Hall
	American Boxing exhibition		Children arrive at Reading Station		Reading Navy League Cadets' demonstration at Reading Museum
	Salute outside St Laurence's Church.		Reading scene after the first alarm.		War exercise in the streets of Tilehurst