Lesson Four

Civil Defence

Teachers’ Materials
Civil Defence Lesson Plan
Further Information

Lesson Materials
When the Wind Blows extracts
Civil Defence Today

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Lesson Four: Civil Defence

AIM
To discover the role of Civil Defence during the period of the Cuban missile crisis.

LESSON OUTCOMES
By the end of the lesson:
All students will be able to outline the use of civil defence during the Cuban missile crisis.

Some students will be able to consider its purpose and effectiveness.

A few students will explore the use of civil defence in current crises.

CONCEPTS TO EXAMINE
Civil defence, propaganda, resilience, planning, preparedness.

OVERVIEW
Students will examine information relating to civil defence and how it was used during the period of the Cuban missile crisis. Students will be able to put their analysis to use by creating their own civil defence guide – that can reflect on a crisis in today’s world.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED
- Pens/Paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- PowerPoint to examine historical events (online)
- Nuclear impact website (online)
- When the Wind Blows page extracts
- Protect and Survive booklet (online and pages 21-22)
- Video of Duck and Cover and The House in the Middle see page 44) (online) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKqXu-5jw60 Duck and Cover)
- When the Wind Blows film can be used – be aware it can be upsetting. Extract clips online.

SUGGESTED TIME
This is a one hour lesson, but can be differentiated to explore each part of the lesson in greater detail over a series of lessons.

ROOM LAYOUT
For pair/group work.

SKILLS
- Analysis
- Enquiry
- Pair work
- Drawing/Writing
- Synthesis
- Application
- Literacy
INSTRUCTIONS

Starter
Watch a short clip of the Duck and Cover video.
Students to feedback on what they think is effective and ineffective about this video in preparation for nuclear attack.

Main activities
- Give a brief overview of the events of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the Cuban missile crisis via the PowerPoint.
- Using the ‘Nuclear Impact’ website show the consequences to their community of a nuclear attack.
- Give students excerpts of When the Wind Blows to read in pairs.
- Students to feedback why they think that Jim and Hilda did not survive.
- Ask students if they think that the shelter was practical?

Now give students copies of Protect and Survive (page 18).
- What do students think the main problems were in providing this information to people? Why do they think this information was provided?
- How do students think that the message within When the Wind Blows compares with the messages of Protect and Survive?
- If nuclear weapons had been dropped during the Cuban missile crisis – do students think that they would have survived?
- Can students think of any civil defence information that is currently given to people in different circumstances in the world to prepare them for something?

Role-play:
- What would be the best things to mention to the public if drawing up effective civil defence information?
- Give students paper. In pairs they are now to design and make their own civil defence information. They need to make the leaflet itself, and also create a short role-play to demonstrate the methods that can be used within their leaflet – for the disaster that they are preparing for.
- Students to perform their role plays using the leaflets they have made as props.

PLENARY
- Use a silent mind map (students do a brainstorm without speaking to each other – they can respond to each other’s comments in writing) to find out all the ways in which civil defence systems can be used, the good and the bad. Include examples of modern day uses of civil defence to prevent disasters – are they effective or not?
- Explain the task to the students and then the students have five minutes to produce their mind map.
- At the end of the session students feedback their ideas.
- Students to consider if civil defence would make them feel safe and can connections be made between civil defence and propaganda?

DIFFERENTIATION
- Suggest ways that the video in the starter could be effective and ineffective to encourage answers.
- Either have a role play of civil defence techniques or just a leaflet
- For the silent mind map – move around the room and add own responses to mind maps to get them thinking.

EXTENSION
- Students to consider disasters around the world and evaluate the success of civil defence practice.
- How could civil defence during the Cuban missile crisis have been more effective considering what we know about the destructive capability of nuclear weapons.

ENRICHMENT
- Take students to the Imperial War Museum, London to explore the history surrounding the period in which civil defence was developed.
- Conduct the role plays for civil defence building outside.
- Plan and prepare students for emergencies within the school community – such as fire drills. Students could create a whole school plan to improve fire safety or something similar.
- Watch When the Wind Blows animated film. Some scenes can be upsetting.
- Create a mood board of all the sources that students can think of that relate to civil defence. Are they useful and effective? How could they be improved to help the public?
Further information: Civil Defence

What is Civil Defence?
Civil defence aims to protect civilians from biological, chemical and nuclear threats as well as other military harm. It helps them to prepare for attacks, know what to do when there is an attack, and how to prevent harm when they encounter an attack. Civil defence works to protect individuals during an attack, and provide emergency services, such as rescue, during an attack. Civil defence is similar to emergency/disaster management in trying to ensure that people stay safe or are able to help themselves in an emergency.

Origins of Civil Defence
Civil defence began during World War One and was the responsibility of the government and local authorities to administer for their regions. Volunteers helped in this process to provide assistance to others in a time of need. In 1935 the UK government set up the Civil Defence Service providing information to the public to protect themselves in times of war. Bomb shelters and education relating to evacuating civilians ensured that civilian casualties were kept to a minimum during bombing raids. The Women’s Voluntary Service for Civil Defence played a key part in helping people deal with the impact of war at home. They provided invaluable community and welfare work, including the evacuation of civilians after bombing campaigns. The Civil Defence Service was disbanded at the end of World War Two in 1945.

Civil Defence and the Cold War
During the Cold War the Civil Defence Service was reinstated and provided information to prepare the public for the possibility of a nuclear attack, war or fall out and help individuals to understand what they should do to secure themselves from these threats. The Cuban missile crisis in 1962 was deemed to be the point that the world was the closest to a nuclear attack. During this time the USA developed a programme of building fallout shelters during this time to protect the public from the radiation based effects of a nuclear war. A public education system in the UK and the USA brought a great deal of controversy. The film Duck and Cover in the USA and the information pack Protect and Survive in the UK were methods of public information and education to help people cope with nuclear attacks. However, the idea that ducking in a nuclear explosion or building a make shift bunker using a mattress would prevent certain death have been ridiculed, some say they are examples of propaganda. Raymond Briggs’ When the Wind Blows illustrates the lives of a couple who follow the civil defence information that they have been given to prepare themselves for a nuclear attack, and the futility of their preparations.

Civil Defence Today
Since the end of the Cold War the functions of civil defence have changed to primarily help protect civilians from disasters and emergencies. In some countries civil defence procedures and drills form part of society, and preparing for emergencies in general. Civil defence is now often referred to as civil protection. In the UK this is legislated for by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and makes sure that local governments have taken steps to protect people from emergency events. The scope of this now covers everything from terrorism to vehicle accidents. In the USA the Federal Emergency Management Agency deals with US based emergencies while Homeland Security deals with terrorist related threats.

Preparedness education exists to inform communities about what to do in case of risks like a fire in a school building or a flooding from the local river. A wide range of work from a number of governmental and non-governmental organisations exist to protect the public from the impact of events such as hurricanes to terror attacks. Sometimes the information and education materials used can cause controversy and critics say they are examples of propaganda.
Civil Defence today

Civil Defence sign
Blue triangle on yellow circle

This guide has been produced by the Ministry of Defence and Devonport Royal Dockyard Limited (DRDL) in consultation with your local council.

What to do first
FOR USE IN THE EVENT OF A NUCLEAR EMERGENCY AT THE DEVONPORT SITE

If you hear the 'emergency' signal (a rising and falling wailing note) from the Naval Base siren, or if you receive warning of a nuclear incident from the Police, remain calm and follow this advice:

GO IN – STAY IN – TUNE IN

1. Go indoors and stay there.
2. Close windows and doors.
3. Listen to your local radio or TV (see overleaf). Follow any instructions you are given.
4. Put out or damp down fires and boilers. Shut down ventilation devices.
5. Do not use the telephone unless you urgently need help.
6. Do not leave the area unless advised to do so (see overleaf).
7. Take potassium iodate tablets if told to do so.

THE INFORMATION IN THIS GUIDE IS IMPORTANT – KEEP IT IN A SAFE PLACE.

What to do in a NUCLEAR EMERGENCY
JULY 2002

The information in this guide is important - keep it in a safe place.

Nuclear Civil Protection 2002
When the Wind Blows

Yes, they say it might break out at any time now. Well, at least you won’t be called up, James.

You’re far too old.

Thank you, my beloved. I’m still two years younger than you.

Well, if the worst comes to the worst, we’ll just have to roll up our sleeves, tighten our belts and put on our ‘tin hats till it’s VE day again.

It won’t be like that this time, love.

I think this one is called The Big Bang Theory.

It’s all been worked out by brilliant Scientists.

Well, we survived the last one. We can do it again. It’ll take more than a few bombs to get me down.

Yes, we must always look on the bright side, ducks.

Nice dinner, dear.

THE PRIME MINISTER.....

MADE A STATEMENT TODAY

IN VIEW OF THE DETERIORATING INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.....

WARNING THE COUNTRY.......

PREPARATIONS ARE UNDER WAY.... OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES....

FALL OUT SHELTERS....

THREE DAYS/TIME....

What’s the matter, dear? Have you burned yourself?

This is it, ducks. This is really it.

Another sausage, dear?

I shouldn’t worry too much. It’ll probably all blow over.

Three days! Blimey! Three days!

Language, James! Language!

Crumbs! It’s lucky I got more leaflets from the Public Library only this morning.

Here we are—see?

THE HOUSEHOLDER’S

GUIDE TO SURVIVAL.

This one should be really authoritative. It’s printed by the County Council.

We’d better commence the construction of the Fall Out Shelter immediately, dear. We must do the correct thing.

There’s treacle tart and custard or cold bread and butter pudding....

No dear, it’s Fall in the Army—Fall in.

Thank Goodness I got those Official Leaflets today. Suppose I hadn’t! We’d have been totally non-prepared! Just think!

Do you have to dig a hole, like the old Andersons in the War?

Oh no dear. That’s all old-fashioned. With modern scientific methods you just use doors with cushions and books on top.
When the Wind Blows

Where on earth are we going to get doors from, James?

You don't mean off our own house, James?!!

Well... you just unscrew them, dear.

You are not going to ruin the paintwork, James!

Well... yes... dearest...

Oh, don't worry, I can soon touch it in after the Bomb's gone off.

Remember they're in the left-hand jug on the dresser.

It's going to be very draughty with no doors on.

I hope you know what you're doing.

I'll put the screws in a plastic bag. You'll only go and lose them.

Just you be careful, James!

Mind that paint, James!

It says here 'The Inner Core on Refuge should be placed at an angle of 45 degrees for maximum strength.'

I should place it up against the wall if I were you, dear.

We haven't got any angles unless it means in the corner. . .

I think we did it at school... you had angles... with degrees in it... only I can't remember properly...

Yes, but which are the degrees?

Yes, Ron says I need a protector. He says I can get one at Willis's.

He was killing himself laughing. I can't understand it.

I think it's nerves. He's gone a bit hysterical!

Oh, I see dear.

Ron is not going to make an inner core or refuge.

It's an irresponsible attitude. I'm a bit disappointed in him adopting that attitude.

I remonstrated with him, but he was adamant. He says if London cops it, he'll cop it and not to worry, Dad.

It was going to that Polytechnic that spoiled him. He met some dreadful people there.

I don't suppose it will make a traffic amount of difference - the exact angle. It'll probably all fall down anyway, with the Bomb on that.

Blessed Beatsnits.

If a job's worth doing it's worth doing well, James.

After all, it will all be over in a flash.

Yes dear, but it is only temporary...
When the Wind Blows

It says here "two-pints-of-water-
per-person-per-day." I wonder if we've got
enough bottles?

I'll have a look
under the stairs, dear.

LATER. I've measured the water into the bottles, James.
I've labelled them so's we don't get in a muddle.

Oh good, that's nice, dear. You're very
efficient in a National Emergency,
clearly.

Oh get on
with you!

It says here (d) Misc. Salt, tomato-ketchup-
and-sauces, matches, toilet-paper,
disinfectant, vitamin-tablets, tin-opener,
knives, forks, spoons."

Funny. . . no plates . . .
I wonder what Misc. is?

What's all that, dear?
I don't know. It's called
Misc. Pass it in, please.

Funny....

What, dear?

In the Government leaflet it says "Remove-thio-
materials-from-windows."

and in the County Council leaflet it says hang-white-sheets-in-the-windows....

I wonder which is correct?

Oooh! It says Peanut Butter! We haven't got any. Oh dear!

No, but it's on the Official List! Oh dear!

It would probably go
dull in the heat, anyway.

You get terrific heat with these bombs, you know.

Never mind, ducks.
I don't like it. Nor do you.

Don't worry, love.
I expect we'll survive without it.

Mind you, Diet is
very important.

"You Are What You Eat" and "Survival of the Fittest,"
on that.

That's why so many people are
jogging and eating lots of Alf-Bran, you expect.

Only the Fittest will survive
the outcome of the
Nuclear Holocaust.

They eat lots of beans, too.

They give you wind, beans do.
You certainly shouldn't
eat beans, James.

Let's not get personal, ducks. I'm trying to have
a scientific discussion.
When the Wind Blows

NEXT MORNING
Morning, dear. How do you feel?

Oooh dear! I ache all over. So do I. I've got a Traffic headache.

I still feel tired. Never mind, ducks. It's probably shock - The Bomb an' that...

It's bound to upset us a bit.

After all, you don't get a Nuclear Bomb every day of the week, do you?

Just as well. Never knew a bomb could give you headaches.

Oh, yes, ducks. I told you these Bombs have a traffic effect on all sorts of things.

A nice cup of tea will perk you up.

Funny... they've cut the water off.

Still, that's logical. It might be contaminated. It's a wise precaution for the protection of the populace.

Use the bottles, dear.

Oh yes, of course - the Emergency Reserve Supplies.

Most of them seem to have blown over in The Blast, dear.

The contents have been disposed of. We should have put corks in.

Funny... the electric is off, too...

Still... bound to be... Conservation of Energy Resources.

... a wise Governmental precaution during the period of National Emergency.

Good job we've got the little picnic stove, eh, dear?

Are there any Aspirins?

Mind it doesn't pop, James. I can't bear it when it pops.

Nothing like a cup of tea!

Crums! I must be dreaming! The News!

We're just in time!

No... Nothing....

there's nothing... all dead....

What about the Tally?

Yes, of course! They may have filmed it all!

We may see Cliff Gomme on the News!

No, all dead....

No picture?

Not even just the voices?

All dead...

No... nothing.... All dead.
When the Wind Blows

Later. Ooh! I do feel tired! Really exhausted. And all dizzy... Nervous Exhaustion due to Unaccustomed Life Style, that's what that is.

How is your headache, dear? Just the same, thank you. Aspirin didn't seem to do any good at all.

I think I've got a temperature. I feel all hot and shivery. You do look pale, dear. I should have an early night.

I must clear up. Suppose someone comes and sees the place in this state. We might have visitors.

Yes. The Emergency Services should arrive today. I'm surprised they're not come before.

I expect they've got a lot of people to attend to. Oh yes. We're only an Outlying District. They'll be heavily engaged within the Stricken Area itself.

Will it be like "Meals on Wheels" dear? Yes, I should think so. There'll be Mobile Canteens & Soup Kitchens, teams of Doctors and Nurses, Helicopters flying in blankets and Medical Supplies - it will all move smoothly into action, you bet. They'll all be here in next to no time.

The Government Authorities have been aware of this eventuality for years, so Continency Plans will have been formulated long ago.

We won't have to worry about a thing. The Powers That Be will get to us in the end.

I hope they come soon, dear. I'm not feeling very well.

I wonder if we'd have been better off in the cellar? Oh no, dear. Too damp. Think of my Rheumatism.

Would you like a bite to eat, dearest? No thanks. I'm right off food. So am I.

Blessed dust, everywhere!

Ooh! Crumbs! I forgot! We're supposed to stay in the Inner-Care or Refuge!

Well, it's too late now. We've been out for ages.

I wonder if there's any Radiation about? Oh Blimey! It was the whole point!

Well, I can't see anything. Hurry up, dear, and get back in the Inner-Care of Refuge. We'd better have an early night.

Well, if you can't see it and can't feel it, it can't be doing you any harm, can it?
When the Wind Blows

NEXT DAY...
Oooh! Do fancy a nice cup of tea!

Do you think the cows will be affected by the Bomb, dear?

 Supplements of milk will be maintained. It is essential for the maintenance of healthy bones and teeth.

Yes, but we live in the country, dear.

Well, the grass is all dead and funny.

I expect there may be a temporary curtailment of supplies.

Yes... er... well... I don't know...

I suppose we'd better just sit here and wait for help to arrive.

Oh yes, the Emergency Services will have sprung into action at the first alarm signal.

I hope they get here before The Enemy.

I hope Benjie and Ron got back all right.

Oh, they'll be all right. They'd have been safely home long before The Bomb.

Our Ron's a sensible boy. At the first sign he'd get the whole family down the Shelters right away.

There aren't any Shelters, dear.

Oh no... I forgot... But he'll be all right, I gave him the Governmental Influenza. He'll be all right with that.

That will afford him the maximum protection available to the populace.

He'll take over immediately and adopt all the prescribed precautionary measures.

He's no fool, our Ron. He's not likely to get hot under the collar. He won't go to pieces. The whole family will stick together.

Oooh! Look! There's funny blue spots on my leg!

Various Veins - that's what that is. A common complaint amongst the middle-aged segment of the populace.

Nothing to worry about. They don't look like veins to me. I don't like the look of it.

Oh, you are a baby! You're a born worrier, you are! Try and look on the bright side, eh, ducks?

Look, even I've got funny blotsches on my skin. See? And I'm a man. Too much tinned food, that's all that is.

Shall we have a Sing-Song, dear? Take your mind off it?

"What's the use of worrying?"

"It never was worthwhile."

Yes, Pitchards never did agree with me.

"So, pack up your troubles in your old kit bag."

"And Smile, Smile, Smile."

Mind! You're messing your shirt!

Oh, sorry....