

A black and white aerial photograph of a city with a grid-like street pattern. A small biplane is flying across the center of the frame. Overlaid on the bottom right is a white graphic of a person's head in profile, facing left. The text is contained within this graphic.

*Topic Lesson
Thursday
14th May*

Air Raid Siren

During the war, and particularly during the blitz which began in 1940, air raid sirens would warn people to take shelter from the incoming German bomber planes.

[**Click here to listen to the sound of an air raid siren.**](#)



Underground Stations

People took shelter wherever they could find it, many places were turned into air raid shelters.

In this picture you can see people taking shelter in an underground station. Some stations were fitted with bunks and washing facilities.



Public Shelters

Shelters could be crowded and you could be in there for a long time. Many people found ways to entertain themselves whilst waiting for the all clear siren to tell them it was safe to leave.



Tea Time

This picture shows people being served with cups of tea in a public shelter while they awaited the all clear siren.

As you can see, this shelter had lots of space.



Morrison Shelters

For people who were far from a public shelter, one option was a Morrison shelter such as this one.

You could simply put it up in your house and it was strong enough to protect you.

Some people slept in them at night so they wouldn't have to move if an air raid siren went off.



Anderson Shelters

These shelters were half buried in the ground with earth heaped on top to protect them from bomb blasts.

They were made from six corrugated iron sheets bolted together at the top, with steel plates at either end, and measured 6ft 6in by 4ft 6in (1.95m by 1.35m). The entrance was protected by a steel shield and an earthen blast wall.

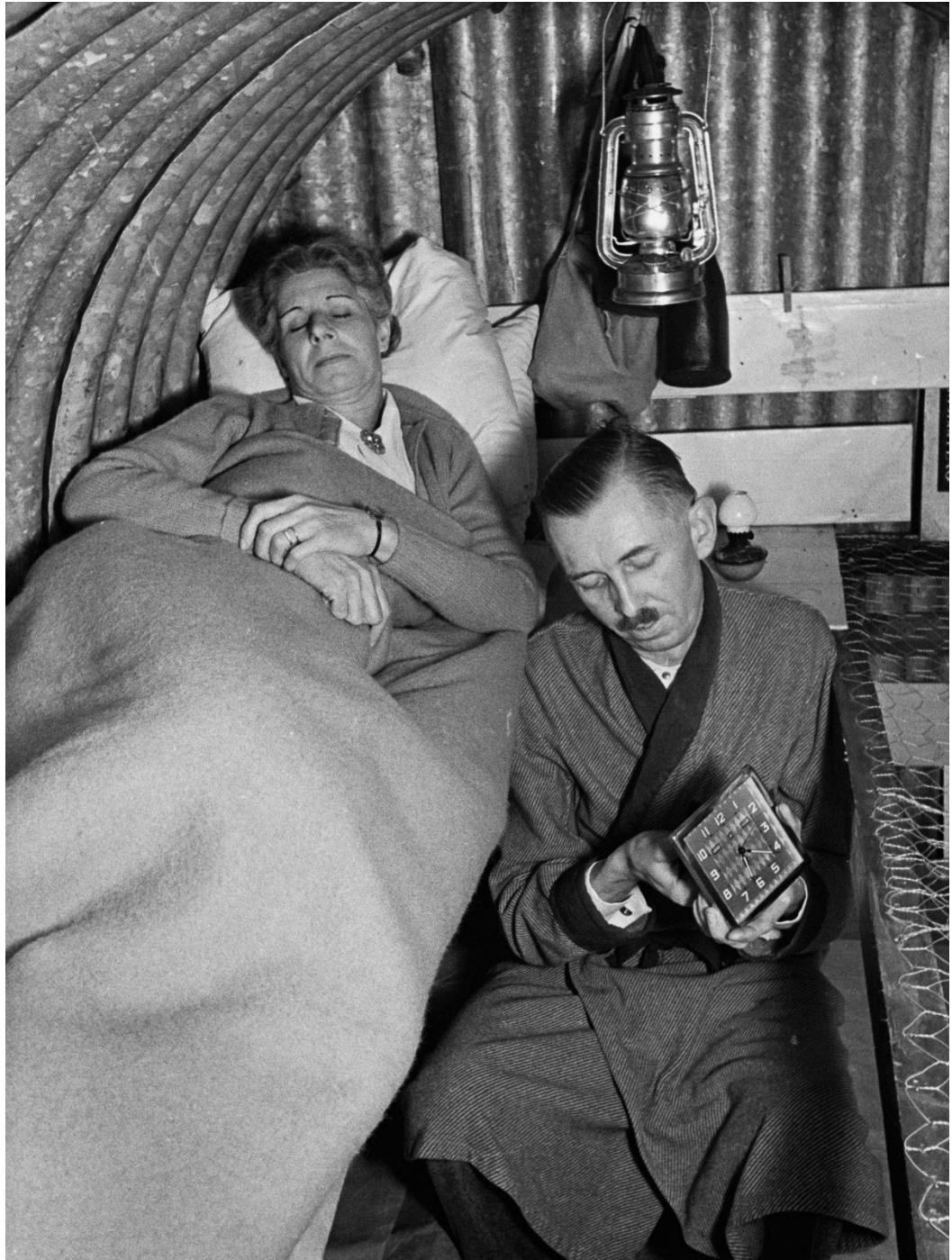
The government gave out Anderson shelters free to people who earned below £5 per week. Men who earned more than £5 a week could buy one for £7. By September 1939 one and a half million Anderson shelters had been put up in gardens.

The Anderson Shelters were dark, and damp and people were reluctant to use them at night. In low-lying areas the shelters tended to flood, and sleeping was difficult as they did not keep out the sound of the bombings.



The Inside of an Anderson Shelter

This short video from the war time shows you what it would have been like inside an Anderson shelter. [Click here](#)



Independent Learning

- Design your own Anderson shelter. You could use the planning sheet on the next slide to help you think through what you will need.
- If you want to and you have the time, you could attempt to make a model using whatever resources you have available at home.



Ideas for design:

Materials needed:

How to make the design
structurally sound:

Sketch:

Ideas for testing the
shelter's strength:

Results:

