Rationing means letting people have only a limited amount of something. During the Second World War many items were rationed as they were hard to get hold of. Last year, shops restricted the amount of tinned foods, toilet paper and other essentials you could buy. This time it wasn’t because of a war but because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Activity 1 - Think

What do you think was rationed during the Second World War? Write a list of 10 things that might have been rationed Why couldn’t people have what was available before the war?
Activity 2 - Explore

Listen to the broadcast to find out what was rationed:
https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london/schools/lockdown-literacy.aspx

Was there anything that surprised you?
Add any items you missed from your list in Activity 1.
The RAF, as with other members of the armed forces, was able to get food outside of rationing as it was important to keep the key war workers fed. This is similar to today where essential workers may have priority access in shops.

Activity 3 - Create

Produce a pamphlet explaining what rationing was during the Second World War.
Write factually and include images.

Include:
What rationing is and why it was needed
What was rationed
Ways to get extra food such as growing your own.
Activity 3 - Continued

Make a meal from things you have at home. Then eat it! Once you’ve eaten, write a review of your meal as though you are a food critic. As you write, remember to:

Be descriptive of both the look and taste of the food
Use wow words – don't just say it was ‘nice’
Use creative language but share your honest opinions.

Activity 4 - Do

Grow your own cress

• Get some cress seeds
• Take some tissue or cotton wool and get it nice and wet
• Place it in a container or on a dish
• Sprinkle the seeds over and gently press them into the wet tissue or cotton wool
• If using a container, put clingfilm over the top to stop moisture escaping. Remove before the leaves touch the top.
• Germination is fast - In just a few days shoots should appear
• Within five to seven days the shoots will be long enough to snip off and can be used in salads and sandwiches
• Take some pictures of your finished crop or even of a meal you make with your cress. Get your parents to help share it with your friends and the RAF Museum on social media (@rafmuseum).

Well done!