National Registration Identity Cards were introduced at the start of the Second World War.

Everyone, including children, had to carry their identity card at all times to show who they were and where they lived.

The government thought identity cards would prove useful in wartime if families got separated during an air raid.

The identity card gave the owner’s name and address, including changes of address. Each person was given a unique number, and this was written in the top left-hand corner of the inside of the card. The same number was used when Ration Books were issued in January 1940.

The local registration office stamped the card to make it valid.

The identity cards issued to children were a light brown (buff) colour. On the back there was a space for their parent or guardian to sign.

Some people carried their identity card in a holder to protect it from wear and tear.

---

**THIS IS THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR IDENTITY CARD**

1. Ask your parent or guardian to sign their signature in the first box
2. Then go to the next page to continue
Write your surname and first name in the spaces provided

Write your address or your school address in the space provided

Then carefully cut out the outside and inside of your Identity Card and stick them together

Finally fold the card in two along the fold line

If you can print these pages on both sides of a single sheet of paper or light card, the outside and inside will be exactly in position on both sides. This cuts out sticking them together.