😨 FlashAcademy®

Black History Month: Lilian Bader

Citizenship & History

Related FlashAcademy[®] lessons:

Intermediate > History > The Second World War

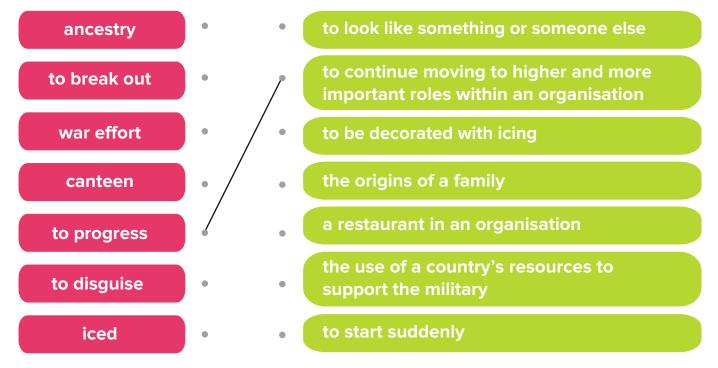
Intermediate > History > Reading Lesson 7, The Second World War

Advanced > Art, History & Tradition > A world at war

Lilian Bader was born in Liverpool in 1918 to a Barbadian-born father and mother who had Irish ancestry. When she was around 7 years old, she moved to Hull with her father and two older brothers.

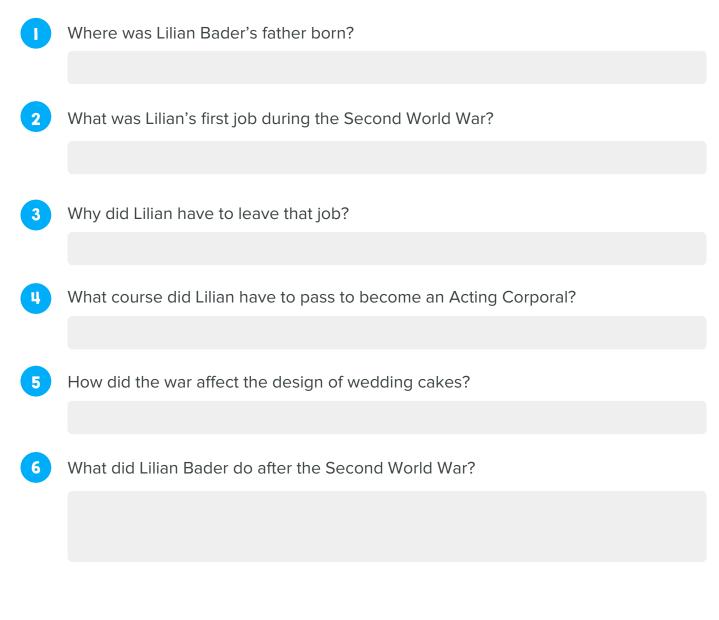
In 1939, when World War Two broke out, Lilian was keen to help the war effort. She joined a Navy, Army and Air Forces Institute canteen, serving food to serviceman. However, after 7 weeks, she was asked to leave because her father was born abroad. She worked for a family whilst looking for other opportunities to help the war effort. When she heard that West Indian men were being accepted into the Royal Air Force, she applied for the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF). She was accepted in March 1941. Lilian was one of the first black women to join the Royal Air Force.

Lilian progressed through the WAAF, first learning how to check the pipes for leaks and then becoming an Acting Corporal after passing her Aircraftwoman First Class course. She also met her husband during the war; they were married in 1943. It was a traditional war-time wedding with a cake that had a plaster of Paris cover to disguise the ginger or chocolate cake as a big iced cake. After the war, she studied for a BA from London University and became a languages teacher.



Match the words with a definition:

Read the text again and answer the questions:



Discuss with a friend, teacher, or your class

How might someone's ancestry hold your back from different roles? Why might this be relevant to jobs in the military?

There was a sudden increase in weddings during the Second World War. Why might this be?

Which adjectives would you use to describe Lilian?

Curriculum link: History

Research how the Second World War impacted life for everyday people. Write a diary entry for someone during the Second World War.