

Year 5 / 6

Construction - WW2 shelter

### Key vocabulary and information

Anderson Shelter	The Anderson shelter was designed in 1938 by William Paterson and Oscar Carl Kerrison in response to a request from the Home Office. It was named after Sir John Anderson, who was responsible for preparing air-raid precautions immediately before the start of World War II.
Prototype	Create a small model of the finished version out of cheaper materials to check measurements and structural integrity
Evaluate	How good is your shelter? Did it meet the success criteria?

To have a successful Air Raid shelter:

- You should be able to stand a Lego man inside it.
- It should hold up to 1kg weight without bowing or crumbling.



Internet Resources

- <https://www.andersonshelters.org.uk/history.html>
- <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/war/shelters.htm>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHyxP3epU-w&feature=youtu.be>
- <https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/1020000116>

In November 1938, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain placed Sir John Anderson in charge of Air Raid Precautions. He immediately commissioned the engineer, William Patterson, to design a small and cheap shelter that could be erected in people's gardens. The first 'Anderson' shelter was erected in a garden in Islington, London on 25 February 1939 and, between then and the outbreak of the war in September, around 1.5 million shelters were distributed to people living in areas expected to be bombed by the Luftwaffe. During the war a further 2.1 million were erected.

Anderson shelters were issued free to all householders who earned less than £250 a year, and those with a higher income were charged £7. Made from six curved sheets bolted together at the top, with steel plates at either end, and measuring 1.95m by 1.35m, the shelter could accommodate six people. The shelters were half buried in the ground with earth heaped on top.