

## Piggly Wiggly- Rationing Activity

Like conservation, rationing became a fact of life in World War II. Bicycles and cars were either not produced or on limited production during the war because the factories were creating military equipment. Families started growing victory gardens in order to have enough food. Food rationing existed not because there was a food shortage; it existed because the metal used for cans were needed for the war effort. Also, shipping lanes that brought in supplies such as sugar were disrupted. Rationing dominated everything from grocery shopping to filling up a tank of gas to getting new clothes. Families were given a certain number of rations a month. This number depended on the job you had and how many people were in your household. Shoppers had to be careful when they went to the stores with their ration books to ensure that they were only getting the most necessary items.

**Objective:** By seeing a World War II ration book and the March 1943 food prices and rationing points, students will have a better understanding of how the war affected everybody in the county.

**Benchmark:** NSS-USH.5-12.8 Era 8: The Great Depression and World War II (1929-1945)  
Virginia SOL: USII.7c Describing the impact of the war on the homefront

**Directions:** Give each student \$2.00 (monopoly money works great for this) and 40 ration stamps. Attached for use is a sheet that has 40 ration stamps on it. You can copy this for each of the students. Each student is to plan breakfast, lunch, and dinner for one day with only 40 points and \$2.00. This is the same amount of ration stamps a family would have per person for a month.

**Assessment:** Students should be assessed on if they correctly add up three healthy, sustainable meals for \$2.00 and 40 ration points. Students should be assessed on why they picked the items they did, showing that they have an understanding of how the war affected everyone.

Some things to keep in mind:

Most every family in World War II had some kind of garden.

Many items would not be available in mass because importing was disrupted during the war.

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**Food Prices and Rationing Points**  
*News and Observer, Raleigh, NC March 1943*

| Food                 | Price         | Ration Points |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Apples               | 33¢/2 pounds  | 20 points     |
| Bisquick             | 37¢/box       | 18 points     |
| Bread                | 10¢/loaf      | 0 points      |
| Bugles snacks        | 19¢/box       | 6 points      |
| Butter               | 22¢/pound     | 20 points     |
| Cake mix             | 18¢/box       | 18 points     |
| Cheerios             | 14¢/box       | 8 points      |
| Cheese               | 35¢/pound     | 12 points     |
| Coffee               | 24¢/pound     | 42 points     |
| Coke                 | 5¢/bottle     | 10 points     |
| Cookies              | 22¢/box       | 22 points     |
| Corn                 | 13¢/can       | 18 points     |
| Crackers             | 19¢/box       | 5 points      |
| Eggs                 | 35¢/dozen     | 0 points      |
| Flour                | 66¢/10 pounds | 18 points     |
| Grits                | 9¢/box        | 3 points      |
| Ground Beef          | 27¢/pound     | 0 points      |
| Jelly                | 24¢/jar       | 40 points     |
| Lemon Juice          | 27¢/bottle    | 9 points      |
| Spam (luncheon meat) | 33¢/pound     | 0 points      |
| Margarine            | 17¢/pound     | 2 points      |
| Mayonnaise           | 20¢/jar       | 0 points      |
| Milk (evaporated)    | 9¢/can        | 1 point       |
| Noodles              | 5¢/box        | 18 points     |
| Orange Juice         | 19¢/can       | 0 points      |
| Peanut Butter        | 25¢/jar       | 9 points      |
| Popsicles            | 29¢/box       | 22 points     |
| Potatoes             | 39¢/10 pounds | 0 points      |
| Rice                 | 10¢/pound     | 3 points      |
| Sausage              | 35¢/pound     | 0 points      |
| Shrimp               | 53¢/pound     | 12 points     |
| Soup                 | 9¢/can        | 10 points     |
| Spinach              | 15¢/can       | 18 points     |
| Steak                | 40¢/pound     | 13 points     |
| Strawberries         | 28¢/pound     | 0 points      |
| Sugar                | 31¢/5 pounds  | 80 points     |
| Syrup                | 23¢/jar       | 80 points     |
| Tomato Juice         | 10¢/can       | 20 points     |
| Tuna                 | 24¢/can       | 6 points      |

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# Piggly Wiggly Grocery List

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Number of Ration Points to Spend: | 20 |
|-----------------------------------|----|

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Money to Spend: | \$2.00 |
|-----------------|--------|

## Breakfast

| Item Name      | Ration Points | Cost |
|----------------|---------------|------|
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
| <b>Totals:</b> |               |      |

## Lunch

| Item Name      | Ration Points | Cost |
|----------------|---------------|------|
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
| <b>Totals:</b> |               |      |

## Dinner

| Item Name      | Ration Points | Cost |
|----------------|---------------|------|
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
| <b>Totals:</b> |               |      |

## Snacks

| Item Name      | Ration Points | Cost |
|----------------|---------------|------|
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
|                |               |      |
| <b>Totals:</b> |               |      |

|                            | Ration Points | Cost |
|----------------------------|---------------|------|
| Breakfast Totals:          |               |      |
| Lunch Totals:              |               |      |
| Dinner Totals:             |               |      |
| Snacks Totals:             |               |      |
| <b>Total Amount Spent:</b> |               |      |

