

## **Aero Zipp Fasteners at Treforest Trading Estate**

### **Teachers' Notes**

Treforest Trading Estate, near Pontypridd, was set up as part of the Special Areas Act of 1934. The act was created to help parts of Britain with high unemployment, and it offered support to businesses to set up in these areas. When the Nazis began seizing Jewish businesses in Germany in the years after 1933, many Jewish refugees fled here to establish their businesses with help from this scheme.

By May 1940, 55 businesses started by Jewish refugees were running at Treforest. They provided jobs for around 1,800 local people. One of these factories was Aero Zipp Fasteners set up by refugee industrialist Joachim Koppel, a Jewish businessman who spent many years of his life in Berlin until he had to flee. Aero Zipp produced metal zip fasteners. They had their factory at Treforest and their offices in London. During World War 2, like several other Jewish businesses, they contributed to the war effort by making zips for military equipment.

In this lesson, students bring the factory to life in a practical and creative way, using soundscape.

### **Curriculum links**

#### **Key Stage 3**

Art and design, History, Music

## Lesson Plan

### LEARNING AIMS

- To understand the role that the Jewish businesses played in Welsh and British life.
- To explore ways of using **soundscape** to bring history to life

### Definition of **soundscape**:

A **soundscape** is a sort of sound collage where different sounds are layered up to create the atmospheric feeling of an environment or place. In this lesson, this will be the Aero Zipp factory on Treforest Trading Estate.

### EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

- Copies of student worksheet.
- Objects / percussion instruments that can be used to make sounds of a factory. E.g., a triangle, wooden blocks, zips, combs, dustbin lids, brushes, drums (enough for everyone in the group to have one item).

**Note:** The practical part of this lesson would work best in a large space such as a drama studio or hall or even outside (somewhere where you can make plenty noise!).

### STARTER

Have the image of the Aero Zipp logo projected as the class enter the room

<https://www.peoplescollection.wales/items/1777191>

Ask the questions – what do you think this company made? Can you guess, from the design, when this company opened?

### DEVELOPMENT

Distribute and read the student handout. Check understanding and ask the students to answer the questions. Discuss their answers.

### MAIN (Practical task)

Have the group sit in a large circle with all the objects and instruments in the middle.

Ask the group to describe the sounds that they might hear in a zip factory. Encourage responses such as:

- Metal cutting.
- Machines whirring.
- Zipping sound as zips are tested.

Ask for a volunteer to go first (or the teacher could demonstrate it if required) to select an object and begin to make a sound for our Aero Zipp factory. Once the sound has become established, it is repeated in a steady rhythm. Then, the next person in the circle selects their object in order to add another sound to our soundscape. Gradually layers of sound are built up. The sounds could also work in relationship to one another e.g., one student makes three taps on a block, and another makes a ding on the triangle: “tap, tap, tap, ding!” Go round the whole circle until the whole group is involved. The teacher or a group member could act as a conductor to increase or decrease volume or intensity as necessary.

#### PLENARY

Ask the group to reflect on the exercises they have completed. What have we learnt about the factories on Treforest Trading Estate during the 1940s? What have you enjoyed about this lesson? What would you like to find out next?

After this lesson, you may wish to look at the other resources on Treforest Trading Estate and Internment.