

Key Stage 2, 3 & 4 and Community Group Activity 6 – 1945 Hot Seating

Following World War II, an election was called in 1945 which saw the hugely popular Conservative Winston Churchill come up against Labour's Clement Atlee. In small groups discuss how an undecided voter might have felt about who to vote for in the 1945 election.

Undecided voter, 1945 election

- Winston Churchill (Conservative) had just played a key role in leading the United Kingdom to victory in World War II
- Labour Party wanted to introduce the welfare state (National Health Service, free education for all, council housing) and nationalisation of rail and coal industries
- Public worry that under a Conservative government, a welfare state would not be introduced and UK would return to mass unemployment of the 1930s.
- The 1945 election was the first to be fought in Britain for ten years, due to the war.

Have one person play the role of the voter, with the rest of the group asking this person questions about how they feel and what they plan to do.

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Devised by Matthew Hallsworth in association with the People's History Museum. The work of *Election!* artist-in-residence Alex Gardner has been supported through Arts Council England's [Grants for the arts](#) scheme.

