

## Sources

Also refer to Sources A-D in the picture pack which accompanies this resource.

### Source 1: from a history textbook (1996)

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Evidence has recently been found that many Soviet people died in forced deportation (movement) by the Soviet government. Some areas, like the Ukraine and the Baltic states, welcomed the Germans as freeing them from Soviet rule. Stalin wanted to prevent other Soviet people from supporting the Germans. So he moved whole national groups (like the Chechens) to the east, where they could not work against the war effort. About 500,000 of them died in the process.

### Source 2: Hitler, speaking after the battle for Moscow in 1941

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Every piece of territory which has to be abandoned to the enemy must be rendered unusable as far as possible. Every settlement must be burned down and destroyed without consideration for the population.

### Source 3: an account written after the War by a child who survived

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I watched my mother and father die. I knew perfectly well they were starving. But I wanted their bread more than I wanted them to stay alive. And they knew that. That's what I remember about the blockade: that feeling that you wanted your parents to die because you wanted their bread.

### Source 4: the memories of Ben Levich, a Jewish scientist, recorded in Moscow in 1972.

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"The best time of our lives", Ben said finally, "was the war"..." because at that time we all felt closer to our government than at any other time in our lives. It was not their country then, but our country. It was not they who wanted this or that to be done, but we who wanted to do it. It was not their war, but our war. It was our country we were defending, our war effort."

## Tasks

1. Complete the table with your findings about what life was like in the USSR.
2. Do you think everyone in the USSR suffered equally during the war? Explain your answer.

## What was it like in the USSR during the 'Great Patriotic War'

Source	What does the evidence <b>tell you</b> about what life was like in the USSR during the war?	Is there anything else you can <b>infer</b> from the evidence about wartime conditions?