During the war, food was rationed because the troops had to be fed and most of the ships that carried goods were used for war supplies.

- People received **ration books**, which had coupons for certain items like: sugar, coffee, butter, meats, and canned goods.
- The coupons allowed you to buy the item in the store. Even if you had the money, if you did not have a coupon, you could not buy that food!
- Rationing meant everyone got a **fair share** when there weren’t enough supplies.
- Besides food, clothing and gas were rationed too.
- Because of gas and rubber shortages, Americans were forced to do less driving.
- That meant that many homes had to be careful of how many times they went to the movies, went on picnics, or even to the store.