

SEAPLANES

Use the information in the passage to answer the questions below.

Sea planes, also called floatplanes, were used to evacuate women and children to Broome during WWII due to their unique capabilities. Unlike ordinary planes, sea planes are designed to take off from and land on water, using floats or pontoons.

Broome, lacking conventional airstrips, required an alternative means of transportation. Sea planes provided the solution by landing directly on the water, using Broome's natural harbor as an improvised airfield. They offered flexibility in choosing landing sites, as they could utilize lakes, rivers, or other calm bodies of water near the evacuation areas.

This versatility proved crucial in emergency situations where established infrastructure was limited or vulnerable to enemy attacks. Moreover, sea planes facilitated quicker evacuation operations by transporting larger groups of passengers at once, reducing the number of flights needed and speeding up the process. Overall, the use of sea planes ensured the safe and efficient evacuation of women and children to Broome despite the challenging circumstances of wartime.

1 How do sea planes differ from ordinary planes?

2 Why were seaplanes used to evacuate Dutch women and children to Broome?

Uses comprehension strategies to expand content knowledge

