

Uncovering Our Local History with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand how local history can be investigated using evidence such as buildings, maps, and artefacts.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Use full sentences where appropriate.

Ellie the Elephant loves to wander through her village, using her incredible memory to spot clues about the past. She knows that history isn't just found in dusty books; it is hidden in the very stones of our streets. Ellie often points out the old stone bridge built in the nineteenth century, which still carries traffic today. She explains that if you look closely at the shop on the corner, you can see the original date carved into the brickwork, showing it was once a bakery. By comparing old, hand-drawn maps from the local archives with the streets we walk on now, Ellie shows us how the village has grown. Sometimes, she finds pieces of broken pottery or old iron keys buried in the garden soil. These are called artefacts. Each one is a tiny puzzle piece that tells a story about the people who lived here long ago. By studying these landmarks and objects, we can piece together the timeline of our home and understand how life has changed over time.

Word bank: artefact · evidence · local · century · landmark · archives

1. According to the passage, what are two places where you might find clues about local history? (2 marks)

2. What does Ellie call the old keys and pieces of pottery she finds? (1 mark)

3. Why does the author suggest that history is not just found in books? (2 marks)

4. How does using an old map help a historian understand how a village has changed? (2 marks)

5. Do you think it is important to protect old buildings in your local area? Explain why. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a historical building or object in your own local area, and label one detail that shows it is old.



Extension challenge: Go on a 'History Hunt' around your home or street. Find one object or building that looks old and write three sentences explaining what it might have been used for in the past.