

Ellie's Local Social Studies / History Detective Mission

Learning objective: To understand how to use local historical evidence to investigate changes in a local area over time.

Ellie the Elephant is visiting your local area to build a 'Social Studies / History Map'. Below is a list of historical clues found in your town. Sort these items into two categories: 'Evidence of the Past' (things that show how life used to be) and 'Modern Features' (things that show how life is today). Then, use the clues to answer the questions about how your local community has changed.

Word bank: Cobbled street · Smartphone tower · Victorian post box · Electric vehicle charging point · Ancient stone well · Supermarket self-checkout · Blacksmith's workshop · Digital library catalogue

1. Sort the items from the word bank into a table. Which items suggest that transport or communication methods have changed? Explain why. (2 marks)

2. If you found an 'Ancient stone well' in your town centre, what does this suggest about how people accessed water in the past compared to today? (2 marks)

3. Why might a historian like Ellie say that a 'Victorian post box' is a piece of evidence, even if it is still being used today? (2 marks)

4. Look at your own street. Name one thing that is a 'Modern Feature'. How would you describe it to someone living 100 years ago? (2 marks)

5. If you were to bury a 'time capsule' today to show future historians what life is like in our school, which three items would you include and why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Then and Now' split-screen image of your local high street. On one side, show what it might have looked like 100 years ago (using your historical clues), and on the other, show how it looks today.



Extension challenge: Research one building in your local area that is over 50 years old. Find out what it was used for when it was first built and what it is used for now. Write a short 'Before and After' profile for that building.