

Ellie's Local Social Studies / History Detective Quiz

Learning objective: To understand how to investigate local history using primary and secondary sources.

Join Ellie the elephant on a walk through time! Use your knowledge of local history to answer these ten questions. Remember, Ellie has a great memory, so think carefully about the clues left behind in our towns and villages.

Answer Key: 1. A (Primary source); 2. True; 3. B (A record of people living in a house); 4. False (Secondary sources are created after an event); 5. Archive; 6. C (To see how buildings have changed); 7. True; 8. Artifact; 9. D (Museum); 10. True.

Word bank: Primary source · Secondary source · Archive · Chronology · Artifact · Settlement · Census · Landmark

1. 1. If you find an old letter written by someone who lived in your town 100 years ago, what type of source is it? A) Primary source* B) Secondary source C) Fiction book D) Modern map (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: A photograph of your local high street taken in the 1950s is a useful way to study local history. (1 mark)

3. 3. What is a census? A) A type of old coin B) A record of people living in a house* C) A map of local trees D) A list of local kings (1 mark)

4. 4. True or False: A textbook written today about the Victorian era is a primary source. (1 mark)

5. 5. What is the name of the place where old documents, maps, and photographs are kept for safe keeping? (1 mark)

6. 6. Why do historians look at old maps of a town? A) To find buried treasure B) To count the birds C) To see how buildings have changed* D) To check the weather (1 mark)

7. 7. True or False: Local history can often tell us why a town was built in a certain place, such as near a river or a hill. (1 mark)

8. 8. What is the special name for an object, such as a piece of pottery or a tool, found from the past? (1 mark)

9. 9. Which place is best for seeing physical objects from your local history? A) A school playground B) A supermarket C) A library D) A museum* (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: Oral history involves talking to older people in your community to learn about their memories of the past. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of a local landmark in your area as it might have looked 100 years ago, compared to how it looks today.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an explorer like Ellie. Write a short diary entry (50-70 words) as if you have just discovered a mysterious old coin in your garden. How did you find it, and what does it tell you about the history of your home?