

Exploring Our Local History with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To investigate the history of your local area by identifying features, sources, and changes over time.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of local history and the clues provided to answer in full sentences. Ellie the Elephant loves to remember the past, so try to be as detailed as possible!

Ellie the Elephant is visiting your town to learn about its history. She is looking at old photographs, maps from the local library, and talking to people who have lived here for a long time to understand how the town has changed from the past to the present.

Word bank: Primary source · Secondary source · Chronology · Landmarks · Heritage · Evidence

1. If Ellie finds a diary written by someone who lived in your town 100 years ago, is this a primary or secondary source? Explain why. (2 marks)

2. Identify one local landmark in your area. Why is this building or feature important to the history of your town? (2 marks)

3. Ellie wants to know how transport has changed in your town. List two types of transport that might have been used in the past compared to what we use today. (2 marks)

4. Why might a map from 1920 look different to a map of your town today? Give one specific example of what might have changed. (2 marks)

5. Imagine you are interviewing an elderly resident. Write one question you would ask them to find out what life was like for children in your town in the past. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a 'Then and Now' comparison of a street in your local area. On the left, show how it looked 100 years ago, and on the right, show how it looks today.



Extension challenge: Choose a local building that is over 50 years old. Research its history and write a short 'Help Wanted' advert from the perspective of a shopkeeper or worker who might have used that building in the past.