

Year 4 Local History Assessment: Uncovering Our Past

Learning objective: To evaluate historical understanding of local landmarks, changes over time, and the use of primary and secondary sources.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical enquiry skills to provide detailed answers. Ensure you use specific historical vocabulary where appropriate.

Ellie the elephant has been researching our local town. She discovered a dusty photograph from 1920 showing a small bakery where the big shopping centre stands today. Nearby, Kit the fox found an old clay pot buried in the park, which dates back to the Roman period. By looking at old maps and comparing them to modern digital ones, they can see how the high street has grown from a few houses to a busy town centre.

Word bank: Chronology · Primary source · Secondary source · Artefact · Landmark · Industrialisation · Evidence · Inference

1. Identify one primary source mentioned in the passage and explain why it is useful for a historian. (2 marks)

2. What is the difference between a primary source and a secondary source? Give one example of each. (3 marks)

3. Look at the changes described in the passage. Compare how the high street might have looked in 1920 to how it looks today. Why might these changes have happened? (4 marks)

4. Justify why it is important for historians to look at more than one type of evidence when studying a local area. (3 marks)

5. If you discovered an unknown object in your own garden, describe the steps you would take to find out what it is and how old it might be. (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: Imagine you are a time traveller visiting your town 100 years in the past. Write a short diary entry describing the sights, sounds, and buildings you see. Explain how this compares to your life today. (5 marks)

7. Explain why some local buildings are protected as 'listed' landmarks instead of being demolished for new housing. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Then and Now' split-screen image of a local landmark, showing how the environment has transformed over time.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: What might happen if all historical records of our town were lost? How would this affect our identity as a community? Justify your opinion.