

Investigating Our Local Heritage with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand how local history can be investigated through physical evidence, maps, and changes in the built environment.

Use your observation skills and historical enquiry techniques to answer the following questions. Think like a historian, just like Ellie the Elephant, by looking for clues in the world around you.

Word bank: Chronological · Evidence · Primary source · Architecture · Landmarks · Urbanisation · Conservation · Legacy

1. Ellie the Elephant has found an old map of our town from 100 years ago. Compare the map to a modern-day street map. Identify two types of buildings that might have existed then but have been replaced by something else today. Explain why you think these changes happened. (4 marks)

2. Look at the local high street. If you were to find a building that is over 100 years old, what features might you look for to prove it is historic? List two architectural details that act as historical evidence. (2 marks)

3. Imagine a local shopkeeper in 1924 was selling a loaf of bread for 2p. Today, the same loaf costs £1.20. Calculate the difference in price and justify why the cost of goods changes so significantly over a century. (3 marks)

4. Explain why it is important for a community to preserve historic landmarks rather than demolishing them to build modern flats or offices. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the way people travelled around our local area in the past versus how they travel today. How has this impacted the layout of our roads and pavements? (4 marks)

6. What might happen if our town had no record of its past? Describe the potential impact on our community identity. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Then and Now' split-screen image of a local landmark. On the left, show it as it might have looked 100 years ago (include horse-drawn transport or older clothing), and on the right, show how it looks today (include modern technology or current vehicles).



Extension challenge: Design a 'Heritage Trail' for your local area. Choose five significant locations and write a short, persuasive paragraph for each explaining why a visitor should stop there to learn about the history of the town.