

Ellie's Local History Investigation

Learning objective: To identify and describe historical changes in the local area and understand how local sites provide evidence about the past.

Join Ellie the elephant on a walk through time! Use your knowledge of local history to answer these questions about how our towns and villages have changed over the years.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.False, 4.Maps, 5.True, 6.B, 7.Primary source, 8.True, 9.A, 10.Transport. Ellie's notes: Remember that a primary source is an item from the time being studied, like an old photograph or a diary entry. Changes in local areas are often driven by new industries or transport links like railways.

Word bank: Chronology · Primary source · Artifact · Landmarks · Archive · Victorian · Settlement · Industry

1. 1. Which of these is a type of primary source that helps us study local history? A) A modern textbook B) A storybook written today C) A photograph from 100 years ago* D) A documentary filmed last week (1 mark)
2. 2. True or False: Old street names can sometimes tell us what a building was used for in the past (e.g., 'Mill Street'). (1 mark)
3. 3. True or False: Local history only includes events that happened over 500 years ago. (1 mark)
4. 4. What do historians use to compare the layout of a town from the past to the present day? (1 word) (1 mark)
5. 5. True or False: Museums are places where we keep artifacts that help us understand our local heritage. (1 mark)
6. 6. If you found a Victorian penny in your garden, why is it a significant historical discovery? A) It is worth £50 B) It provides physical evidence of the currency used in that era* C) It means a bank was definitely there D) It is just a piece of scrap metal (1 mark)
7. 7. What is the name for a person who studies the past using evidence? (1 word) (1 mark)
8. 8. True or False: The arrival of the railway often caused small villages to grow into larger towns. (1 mark)

9. 9. Which feature might you find in a local archive? A) Original birth certificates and census records* B) New toys from the local shop C) A list of today's weather D) Current bank statements for £10 (1 mark)

10. 10. What is a major reason why local landscapes change over time? (1 word) (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a 'Then and Now' split-screen image of a local high street. On one side, show it as it might have looked 100 years ago, and on the other side, show how it looks today.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why it is important for communities to preserve historical buildings instead of replacing them with modern ones. 2. Compare and contrast how people travelled to school 100 years ago versus today. 3. Justify your answer: If you were in charge of a local museum, which object from your own life would you choose to save for future generations to study, and why? 4. What might happen to a town's history if all the old maps and photographs were lost? 5. Research a local building in your town; identify one feature that suggests it was built in a different time period. 6. Imagine you have discovered an unknown artifact in your attic. Write a short diary entry from the perspective of the person who owned it 80 years ago.