

Investigating Our Local History with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To use historical enquiry skills to research and record the heritage of our local area.

Use this scaffold to organize your research into the history of our town or village. Ellie the Elephant has a wonderful memory for the past, so think carefully about how our area has changed over time. Use the word bank to help your writing flow.

Walking through our local streets today, it is fascinating to imagine what this place looked like many decades, or even centuries, ago.

Word bank: historically · significant · previously · transformed · in contrast · evidence suggests · centuries ago · furthermore · consequently · archival records

1. What is the oldest building or landmark in our local area, and what was its original purpose? Start by saying: The most significant historical site in our neighborhood is... (2 marks)

2. How has the use of land in our area changed over time? (Think about farming, industry, or housing). Explain why: Historically, this area was used for..., but today it has been transformed into... (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast: How does life for a child living here 100 years ago differ from your life today? Consider school, transport, and games. (3 marks)

4. Evidence gathering: What sources of information have you used to find these facts? (e.g., photographs, maps, or interviews). Justify why these sources are reliable. (2 marks)

5. What might happen if we did not preserve our local historical landmarks? Justify your opinion using examples. (3 marks)

6. If you could interview a person from the past about our local area, what three questions would you ask them to learn more about their daily life? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Create a 'Then and Now' map of your local high street. Draw how it looks today, and alongside it, draw a predicted sketch of how it might have looked in the year 1900. Write a short paragraph explaining the most surprising change you discovered during your research.