A Walk Through Time with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand how our local area has changed over time.

Read the story about Ellie's walk through the village and answer the questions below.

Ellie the Elephant loves to wander through our village. She has an incredible memory, so she remembers exactly what the high street looked like a long time ago. Last Tuesday, Ellie took us on a special history walk. She pointed her trunk at the old stone library. 'This used to be a bakery,' Ellie told us. 'I remember the smell of fresh bread every morning!' We walked past the park where the big oak tree stands. Ellie explained that the tree was planted by the village mayor over one hundred years ago. It was much smaller then. We looked at some old black-and-white photographs of the village. The roads were made of dirt instead of tarmac, and people travelled in horse-drawn carts instead of cars. It is amazing to see how much things change. Some buildings stay the same, like the stone clock tower, but others have brand new shops inside them. Ellie says that by looking at old pictures and talking to people, we can learn all about the story of our home.

Word bank: history · past · present · buildings · change · memory

1. What building in the village used to be a bakery? (1 mark)

2. How did people travel around the village a long time ago? (1 mark)

3. Why does Ellie think it is important to look at old photographs? (2 marks)

4. How do we know the oak tree is very old? (2 marks)

5. Would you prefer to live in the village when it had horse-drawn carts or now? Why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of what you think the village looked like a long time ago, including a horse-drawn cart.

Extension challenge: Ask a family member or a neighbour what the local area was like when they were your age. Write down one thing that has changed.