

Year 5 History Assessment: Exploring Our Local Heritage

Learning objective: To analyse and evaluate historical changes within our local area using primary and secondary sources.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed answers. Ensure you use specific terminology where appropriate. You have 45 minutes to complete this assessment.

Ellie the Elephant has been researching the history of our town. She discovered that 150 years ago, our high street was mostly farmland. Maps from that time show a small river, a stone bridge, and only three cottages. Today, the same area features a railway station, a library, and a bustling market. Ellie found an old photograph from 1920 showing the town's first motorcar, which contrasts sharply with the busy transport links we see today.

Word bank: Chronology · Primary source · Secondary source · Industrialisation · Settlement · Artifact · Evidence · Migration

1. Define the difference between a primary source and a secondary source. Give one example of each that Ellie might use to study the town. (2 marks)

2. Using Ellie's research, identify two significant changes in the landscape of our town over the last 150 years. (2 marks)

3. Explain why historians use maps from different time periods to understand how a local area has developed. (3 marks)

4. If a new housing estate was built on the site of an old, abandoned factory, what physical evidence might archaeologists find buried in the ground? Why is this evidence important? (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the way people travelled through our town 150 years ago versus today. What factors do you think influenced these changes? (4 marks)

6. Justify your answer: Why is it important for us to preserve historical buildings in our local community rather than replacing them with modern structures? (3 marks)

7. Extended Writing: Imagine you are a local historian. Write a short report (approx. 100 words) describing how the economy of our town has changed from the past to the present day. You must use evidence to support your claims. (8 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Then and Now' split-screen image of a local landmark. On the left, show it as it might have appeared 100 years ago; on the right, show how it looks today.



Extension challenge: What might happen to our town's identity if we lost all records of its history? Create a proposal for a new 'Local History Museum' exhibit that focuses on one specific aspect of our town's past (e.g., local trade, famous people, or wartime experiences). Explain why this exhibit would be valuable to the community. Total: /25