

Uncovering the Secrets of Oakhaven

Learning objective: To analyse the significance of local history and understand how physical landmarks provide evidence of the past.

Read the passage about Ellie the elephant's local history project carefully. Answer the questions in full sentences, ensuring you refer back to the text for evidence.

Ellie the elephant loves visiting the sleepy village of Oakhaven to study its fascinating heritage. While many residents walk past the old, mossy stone bridge without a second glance, Ellie views it as a vital piece of evidence. Constructed in 1782, the bridge once served as the primary route for horse-drawn carts carrying wool to the nearby market. Ellie notes that the bridge's narrow archway tells a story of a time before motor vehicles, when trade relied on muscle and patience. Nearby, the remains of the Victorian watermill stand as a silent testament to the village's industrial past. Ellie often spends her afternoons sketching these structures, comparing their original purpose to how they function today. She believes that local history is not just about dusty dates; it is about understanding how our environment has evolved. By protecting these landmarks, we keep the memories of our ancestors alive. Every chipped stone and rusted gear offers a clue, allowing curious explorers like Ellie to piece together the narrative of how Oakhaven transformed from a bustling trade hub into the peaceful village it is today.

Word bank: chronology · landmark · heritage · evidence · archaeology · preservation

1. What was the original purpose of the stone bridge in Oakhaven according to the passage? (2 marks)

2. In what year was the bridge constructed? (1 mark)

3. Why does Ellie describe the watermill as a 'silent testament' to the village's past? (2 marks)

4. What can we infer about the transport methods used in 1782 compared to modern methods? (2 marks)

5. Ellie argues that local history is 'not just about dusty dates'. Do you agree with her? Justify your answer using examples from the text or your own knowledge. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Then and Now' split-screen image of Oakhaven. On the left, draw the bridge in 1782 with a horse-drawn cart; on the right, draw the same bridge today with a modern bicycle or pedestrian.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the industrial history of Oakhaven with your own local area. What physical evidence remains in your town or village that tells a story of the past? Write a short persuasive paragraph explaining why one specific local landmark should be preserved for future generations.