

Local History Detectives with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To investigate and interpret historical evidence from the local area, understanding how local settlements have changed over time.

Join Ellie the Elephant on a historical expedition! Use your research skills and logical thinking to answer these questions about how communities change. Choose the best answer or provide a brief explanation.

Answer Key: 1. A; 2. True; 3. True; 4. B; 5. Primary source; 6. D; 7. False; 8. C; 9. Industrialisation; 10. A.

Ellie's Note: Local history is a jigsaw puzzle where the pieces are buildings, maps, and memories!

Word bank: settlement · archaeology · primary source · chronology · industrialisation · civil parish

1. Which of these is a 'primary source' for finding out about your local history? A) A modern textbook B) A diary written in 1920* C) A storybook written today D) A website about dinosaurs. (1 mark)

2. True or False: Aerial photographs taken fifty years ago can show us how the layout of our local streets has changed. (1 mark)

3. True or False: A census is an official count of the population that helps historians understand who lived in a town in the past. (1 mark)

4. What is the main reason many older British towns were built near rivers? A) For the view B) For transport and trade* C) To stop people leaving D) Because they liked swimming. (1 mark)

5. What term describes an original object or document from the time period being studied? (1 mark)

6. Which invention most significantly changed the size and shape of local towns during the 19th century? A) The telephone B) The lightbulb C) The bicycle D) The steam engine* (1 mark)

7. True or False: Every building in a local area is listed as a heritage site by the government. (1 mark)

8. 8. If you found a piece of old pottery in your garden, what is the most important thing to do? A) Throw it away B) Clean it with strong chemicals C) Record where you found it and tell a local museum* D) Keep it hidden. (1 mark)

9. 9. What is the term for the process where a town shifts from farming to factory work? (1 mark)

10. 10. Which map feature helps us understand the scale of a local area? A) The scale bar* B) The title C) The colour D) The date (1 mark)

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



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why it is sometimes difficult for historians to find evidence about ordinary people's lives in the past. 2. Compare and contrast how local transport has changed from the Victorian era to today. 3. Justify why some local buildings are protected (listed) while others are demolished. 4. What might happen to our town's history if we stopped keeping digital records? 5. If you were an archaeologist, what specific item would you hope to find in your local area to tell a story about the past? 6. Design a 'Heritage Trail' map for your school grounds, marking at least three spots that show the history of your site.