

Uncovering Our Local Heritage: A Historical Investigation

Learning objective: To research and construct a detailed historical account of a significant local landmark or site using primary and secondary sources.

Follow the structure below to document the history of a place in your local area. Use your research notes to expand on each point, ensuring you provide evidence to support your historical claims.

Standing before the weathered stones of the old town clock tower, one begins to wonder about the countless stories etched into its foundation over the last century.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in retrospect · archival evidence · transformation · significant · perspective · chronologically · notably · legacy

1. Introduction: Describe the chosen landmark and explain why it is historically significant to our local community. Start by stating: 'The [landmark name] serves as a silent witness to our town's past because...' (2 marks)

2. Chronological Development: How has the site changed over time? Use this starter: 'Tracing the site's history back to [date/era], it is evident that its primary purpose was...' Explain the shift in its usage. (3 marks)

3. Evidence Analysis: What sources did you use to verify your facts? Explain: 'By examining [maps/photographs/records], I discovered that... Justify why these sources are reliable.' (3 marks)

4. Impact on the Community: Compare and contrast how the landmark affected people in the past versus how it is viewed today. Start with: 'In the past, the site was essential for..., whereas today it functions as...' (3 marks)

5. Reflective Conclusion: What might happen if this site were removed or forgotten? Explain why we have a responsibility to preserve our local history for future generations. (3 marks)

6. Greater Depth Challenge: Justify your answer to the following: If you could add one historical plaque to this site to tell a 'hidden' story, whose perspective would you represent and why? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine Ellie the elephant is visiting your site. Write a formal letter to the local council from Ellie's perspective, arguing for the conservation of this landmark. Use persuasive language and refer to specific historical evidence you uncovered during your research.