Uncovering Our Local Social Studies / History: The Changing High Street

Learning objective: To identify and illustrate how local buildings and services have changed over time by comparing historical features with modern day equivalents.

Use your knowledge of local history to complete the drawing task. Think about how a high street in your area might have looked 100 years ago versus how it looks today. Use the word bank to label the features you include in your sketch.

Draw: Create a split-screen illustration. On the left side, draw a 'Past' view of a local street featuring a cobbled road, a gas lamp, and a horse-drawn cart. On the right side, draw a 'Present' view of the same street showing tarmac, modern street lighting, and a contemporary shop front. Ensure the building shapes remain similar in both drawings to show the passage of time.

Label words: Cobbled street · Gas lamp · Horse and carriage · Digital signage · Modern storefront · Pavement · Architectural detail · Public transport

Steps:

1. Identify one feature in your drawing that would not have existed 100 years ago and explain why.
2. Why is it important to preserve historical buildings in our local area?

3. Label three architectural features in your drawing that suggest a building is old (e.g., sash windows or stone carvings).

4. If Ellie the elephant were to visit your high street, what historical landmark would you show her first to explain the town's past?

5. Suggest one way in which the function of a building in your local area has changed over the last century.