Ellie’s Local History Detective Mission

Learning objective: To identify and describe how our local area has changed over time by comparing historical evidence.

Ellie the Elephant is visiting your local town to find out how it has changed. Look at the list of items below. Decide if each item is a 'Primary Source' (something from the past that still exists today, like an old building) or a 'Modern Addition' (something built or created recently). Sort them into the correct category and explain why you think so.

Word bank: Victorian post box · Brand new shopping centre · Ancient parish church · Electric car charging point · Cobbled market square · Modern glass apartment block

1. Choose one 'Primary Source' from the list. Why is it an important piece of evidence for local history? (2 marks)

2. Choose one 'Modern Addition'. How does this change the way people live in your town compared to the past? (2 marks)

3. If Ellie found a local map from 100 years ago, what is one thing she might see on it that is no longer there today? (1 mark)

4. Why do historians think it is important to keep old buildings instead of knocking them all down to build new ones? (2 marks)

5. If you were to bury a 'Time Capsule' today for people to find in 100 years, name two items you would put inside to show what life is like now. (2 marks)

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

Extension challenge: Interview an older relative or neighbour about the town. Write down one thing they remember from when they were your age that has completely disappeared from the high street.