Exploring Our Local History with Ellie

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

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of local history to answer. Look at the clues in your town to help you explain how life in the past was different to life today.

Ellie the elephant has a wonderful memory and loves to learn about the history of the places she visits. Whether it is a dusty old building, a statue in the park, or a street name that tells a story, Ellie knows that everything around us holds a clue to the past. By looking at old photographs, maps, and objects, we can piece together the history of our own local community.

Word bank: archaeology · chronology · evidence · artefact · tradition · landmark · primary source

1. Ellie finds an old, rusty key in the local museum. Why is this object considered a 'primary source' of historical evidence? (2 marks)

2. Think about your local high street. Name one building or landmark that has stayed the same for a long time and one thing that has changed. (2 marks)

3. If you wanted to find out what your school looked like 50 years ago, list two different types of historical sources you could look for. (2 marks)

4. Why do you think it is important for a town to protect its old buildings instead of knocking them down to build new ones? (2 marks)

5. If you found a coin from the year 1920 worth £1 in a local garden, why might it be difficult to spend it in a shop today? (2 marks)

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

Extension challenge: Interview a grandparent or an older neighbour about their favourite memory of the local area when they were your age. Write down three interesting facts you discovered that you did not know before.