Ellie’s Local History Investigation

Learning objective: To understand how to use historical sources to investigate changes in the local area over time.

Join Ellie the elephant on a journey through the past! Use your historical enquiry skills to answer these 10 questions about how our local towns and villages have changed.

Answer Key: 1. A (Primary Source); 2. True; 3. Archive; 4. B (To record the population); 5. False (They show how buildings/land use changed); 6. Chronological; 7. Architecture; 8. C (A secondary source); 9. A (Victorian era); 10. False (They are vital for social history).

Word bank: Primary Source · Secondary Source · Census · Chronological · Architecture · Archive · Trade · Ordnance Survey · Heritage · Industrial

1. 1. If you find a diary written by someone who lived in your town 100 years ago, what type of source is it? A) Primary Source* B) Secondary Source C) Fiction D) Digital map (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Old photographs of your local high street are useful for spotting changes in shop signs and transport. (1 mark)

3. 3. What do we call the building where historians store important local documents and records for safekeeping? (1 mark)

4. 4. Why did the government start taking a national census in 1801? A) To count sheep B) To record the population* C) To collect taxes for a new park D) To map the forests (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: Old maps are only useful for finding where roads used to be, not for understanding local life. (1 mark)

6. 6. When arranging historical events in the order they happened, what word do we use? (Starts with C) (1 mark)

7. 7. What word describes the style and design of buildings in your local area, such as stone cottages or red-brick factories? (1 mark)

8. 8. A history textbook written today about the Second World War is an example of: A) A primary source B) An oral history C) A secondary source* D) An artefact (1 mark)

9. 9. Many British towns saw huge growth in housing and factories during which period? A) Victorian era* B) The Stone Age C) The Roman Empire D) The 1990s (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: Local history is only about famous people, not ordinary families. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a 'Then and Now' split-screen image of your local high street. On the left, draw it as it might have looked 100 years ago (think horses and carts!), and on the right, draw it as it looks today.

Extension challenge: Interview an older relative or neighbour about how your town has changed since they were your age. Write down three things that are different and one thing that has stayed exactly the same.