Investigating Our Local History: A Historical Enquiry

Learning objective: To investigate and explain the history of the local area, identifying how changes have affected the community over time.

Use this writing frame to structure your local history study. Refer to historical sources such as maps, photographs, or interviews with local residents to support your points. Ensure you use historical terminology accurately.

To understand the heritage of our community, one must look beneath the surface of the modern high street to uncover the layers of history that have shaped the town we see today.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in contrast · significantly · during the Victorian era · a turning point · archival evidence · urban development · social impact · remains evident

1. Introduction: Briefly introduce the location you are studying. What are the key features of the area today, and why is it important to learn about its past? Start your paragraph with: 'The local area of [Name] is defined by...' (2 marks)

2. Historical Context: Describe what the area was like in the past. What was the main industry or reason for the settlement's growth? Start your paragraph with: 'Historically, this area was significant because...' (3 marks)

3. Key Changes: Explain one major change that occurred in your town (e.g., the arrival of the railway, the growth of local industry, or mail-war housing). Start your paragraph with: 'A major turning point for the local community was...' (3 marks)

4. Evidence: What evidence did you use to find this information? (Think about old maps, local records, or buildings). Start your paragraph with: 'Evidence of this history can still be seen today through...' (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise how the past influences the present. Do you think the town has improved? Start your paragraph with: 'In conclusion, the history of this area is vital because...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are Ellie the elephant, who has a brilliant memory for history. Write a short 'memory log' entry describing how one specific building in your area has changed its function or appearance over the last 100 years.