

Researching on Location

When you hear the word “history”, you may think at first about the classroom subject, school books, archives, films about famous people. But history is more than that. It can be found anywhere: in the city park through which you walk every day, in the streets where you live, in your school. Even the recollections and stories that your grandparents or parents share from the olden days are history. Letters, postcards, diaries, photo albums – they all reveal something about the past.

With your participation in a EUSTORY History Competition you are well on the way toward researching the past in your own environment. As you proceed on your journey of discovery through history, you will recognize those events of the past that have especially marked your region and your families. You will find out something about why people behaved as they did in the past, and not in some other way, and how certain changes took place. You will understand the influence the past still has on the lives of people in your town. And last but not least, you will contribute to the general understanding of history, through your local research.

It is especially interesting to encounter the people »behind« the events. Not the so-called famous personalities, but the “normal” people who are always a part of the history, and have recounted or otherwise transmitted history.

Take off on the trail of historical events. Town and street signs contain information about events or individuals, and these, too, can become jumping off points or stations on the route of your research. Buildings, memorials and historical sites give you important impulses. Relatives or friends can deliver important information as eyewitnesses, or simply provide their own viewpoint about a given event.

The following Work Sheets will help you design and carry out your own historical research project, step by step.