

**Wirral Hospitals’ School**

**Stay-At-Home History Challenge**

A nice way to use this time at home would be to find out more about the history of the area you live in. Best of all, you can do this whilst saying home and staying safe!

**Stay-At-Home History Challenge: Local History**

1. Where does the name of your area come from? (e.g. According to Wikipedia, the name Birkenhead probably means "headland overgrown with birch", from the Old English **bircen** meaning birch tree, of which many once grew on the **head**land which jutted into the river at Woodside.)

2. Look at a map of your local area. In the dim and distant past, people used a book called an A to Z to find directions. Ask to see if anybody at home has one. Or, if you prefer, you could just use Google Maps (or any other online map device.)

Pay close attention to local street names. Can you group them together into types?

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| **Rivers, ponds, lakes, streams** |  |
| **Trees, flowers, woods, fields** |  |
| **Animals, birds, fish** |  |
| **Compass directions** |  |
| **People** |  |
| **Events** |  |
| **Industry** |  |
| **Other local names** |  |

3. What local landmarks do you have in your area? Research their history either by looking online or by asking your family about them. You could sketch a landmark in the space below.

4. Are there any local legends about your area? Any ghost stories? Were any famous (or infamous!) people born nearby?

5. How does your local area fit into any of the history you have studied in school? (e.g. if you live in Birkenhead, you might tie this in with the growth of Liverpool as a port and the proud history of ship building at Cammell Laird.)