

## Oral History

### How People Lived in the Past – Houses

In the SINE learning journey *Industrialisation* you will have seen that in the past some houses were very different from modern houses.

#### Getting started:

- Find a relative, friend or neighbour who would like to talk to you about their memories. Remember, the older this person is, the more houses will have changed since they were young.
- When you find someone to talk to, arrange a time to meet so you can ask them about the houses in which they have lived.
- Think of some questions – we have provided you with some ideas below. Take a pen and notepad with you, to write things down. If you have a tape recorder, you could tape the conversation.



#### The Interview

Firstly ask them some basic facts about themselves:

- their name
- how old they are
- where they have lived for most of their life

Then ask them to tell you about one place in which they have lived, some ideas for questions are:

- Did they live in a house or a flat?
- How many people lived there?
- How many bedrooms did it have?
- What were the rooms like?
- How is it different from the house they live in now?
- Who were their neighbours?
  
- Write down important things they say as they are speaking. Ask them to spell street names or other words you are not familiar with.
- When you get home write down all the things they told you in full. Take what you have written back to the person you interviewed and ask them to make sure you have got everything right.
- Take your work to school and share it with the rest of the class.

**Class Discussion:** What similar elements did the pupils come across in their accounts? What are the major differences between housing today and housing in the past? Does anyone in the class live in an old house? What features of the house tell them it is old?