

What Has Happened Here? Activity Resource Sheet

Every community has a different history and will therefore have different topics of local interest and sources associated with those topics. You can adapt this set of questions to fit your local area and to assist your patrons as they begin their research.

Pre-Contact/Contact/Settlement

- Which Native American tribes lived in your area? What happened to them?
- Why was your town settled?

Work & Labor

- What did most people in your town do for work 50/100/150 years ago?
- What's the history of labor in your town? Of union presence? Were there ever any notable strikes?

Infrastructure/Maps/Transportation

- What forms of transportation served your town that are now gone?
- What were the most significant development projects to take place in your town? When did they happen? Were they contested?

Economic Development

- Was your community founded to support a particular industry, e.g., logging, mining, manufacturing, fishing? How have those industries affected the history of your community? Has the local economy changed over time, and if so, how?
- Have there ever been any major failures—of businesses or banks—that affected your town? What were the repercussions?
- Did your town ever suffer a serious economic downturn? What happened, and how was it reversed (if it was)?

Environment/Weather/Natural Disasters

- Are there flora and fauna that used to grow in your town that are now gone? Conversely, does the area now have any common flora and fauna that weren't around 50 years ago?
- Were there ever any major natural disasters in your town? What happened?

Slavery

- Was slavery ever legal in your town? Was slavery a factor in the history and economy of your community? When? If it was, how many enslaved people lived in the area, and what kind of work did they do? Who benefited from their labor?
- Upon manumission, what happened to the formerly enslaved people? How did the economy and the community change? Why did the law change when it did?

Women's Suffrage

- When did women get the right to vote in your town? What's the history of women's political participation in town governance?