

Exploring Settlements with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To understand the characteristics of different human settlements, including villages, towns, and cities.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Use full sentences for your answers.

Finn the dolphin loves to swim along the coastline near the human world. He has noticed that humans live in different types of places called settlements. A small village is usually found in a rural area. It has a tiny population, a few houses, and perhaps a small shop or a post office. The air is quiet, and there is plenty of green space for fields and trees.

As Finn swims further up the river, he finds a town. Towns are larger than villages and have more people living there. They often have busy high streets with cafes, libraries, and schools. Finally, Finn reaches the city. A city is a large urban settlement with a huge population and tall buildings. Cities have complex infrastructure, like large train stations, hospitals, and museums. Whether it is a tiny village or a bustling city, every settlement provides a place for people to live, work, and socialise. Finn wonders how the people living in the quiet countryside compare their lives to those in the busy city centre. He loves watching the maps of these places change as they grow over time.

Word bank: settlement · population · infrastructure · urban · rural · services

1. According to the text, what are two features you might find in a small village? (2 marks)

2. What does the author suggest is the main difference between a village and a city in terms of population size? (2 marks)

3. Why might someone choose to live in a village rather than a city, based on the description of the environment? (2 marks)

4. What does the word 'infrastructure' imply about the way a city is organised? (2 marks)

5. If you could design your own ideal settlement, would you prefer it to be more like a village or a city? Explain your choice. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a map that shows a small village transitioning into a larger town. Include labels for the different types of buildings you have drawn.



Extension challenge: Research a local settlement near your school. Write three facts about its history or services, such as when the local library was built or how many schools are in your area.