

Settlement Sleuths with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To understand the reasons for the location of settlements and identify different types of land use.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of geography to provide detailed explanations. Finn the Dolphin is looking at these maps from high above the ocean—help him understand why humans choose to build where they do!

Finn the Dolphin has been mapping coastal and inland settlements. He has observed that people build houses, shops, and factories in specific areas based on history, landscape, and available resources. From his vantage point, he can see clusters of buildings (urban areas) and scattered farmhouses (rural areas).

Word bank: infrastructure · natural resources · urban · rural · altitude · accessibility · industry · residential

1. Identify two physical features of the landscape that might encourage people to build a settlement nearby. Explain why these features are important for a community. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast a rural village with a large urban city. How does the land use differ in these two locations? (2 marks)

3. Finn spots a new factory being built near a river. Justify why a factory owner might choose to build near a water source or a major road. (2 marks)

4. What might happen to a settlement if all its natural resources, such as coal or timber, were suddenly exhausted? Describe the potential impact on the people living there. (2 marks)

5. Explain why many historical settlements were built on high ground rather than in deep, flat valleys. Consider the dangers of flooding and defence. (2 marks)

6. Imagine a new settlement is being planned. If you had a budget of £5,000,000 to build a new bridge or a new school, which would you prioritise to help the settlement grow? Justify your choice. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view map of a small settlement. Include a river, a cluster of residential houses, a school, and a transport link (like a road or a railway). Label your features using the words from the word bank.



Extension challenge: Research a local settlement near your school. Write a short paragraph explaining the main reason you think it was built in that specific spot (e.g., near a river, a crossroads, or a hill) and how the land is used today.