

Exploring Settlements with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and explain the factors that influence the location and growth of human settlements.

Read each question carefully and use your geography knowledge to provide detailed answers. Think about why people choose to live in certain places.

Finn the Dolphin has spent his life mapping the world's coastlines and rivers. He has noticed that humans often build their homes and towns near specific features, such as rivers, flat land, or transport routes. As a geographer, you must now analyse why these settlements grow and change over time.

Word bank: infrastructure · settlement · resource · urban · rural · topography · trade · employment

1. Define the difference between a rural settlement and an urban settlement. Give one example of a facility you might find in an urban area that is less common in a rural village. (2 marks)

2. Finn observes that many historical towns were built next to rivers. Explain two reasons why a river would be a beneficial location for a new settlement in the past. (2 marks)

3. What is 'infrastructure'? List two examples of infrastructure that help a modern town function successfully for its residents. (2 marks)

4. Imagine a small village is growing into a large town. What are two potential negative impacts this growth might have on the local natural environment? (2 marks)

5. A new housing development is being planned. If the cost of building the road network is £250,000 and the cost of the utility pipes is £175,000, what is the total cost of this infrastructure project? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view map of a fictional settlement. Include a river, a bridge, a residential area, and a green space. Label these features clearly.



Extension challenge: Research a town or city in the UK. Write a short paragraph explaining why you think it was built in its specific location (e.g., near a port, a mountain pass, or a natural resource).