

Finn's Settlement Explorer: Planning a Coastal Community

Learning objective: To understand the factors influencing land use and the development of different types of human settlements.

Finn the dolphin is scouting the coastline to help a group of settlers decide where to build their new village. Use the provided criteria to sort the potential site features into 'Essential for Early Survival' or 'Important for Future Growth'. Once sorted, justify your choices by answering the questions below.

Word bank: Fresh water source · Fertile soil · Deep-water harbour · Flat land · High ground · Transport links · Defensive position · Renewable energy potential

1. Explain why a 'Fresh water source' is categorised as 'Essential for Early Survival'. How would the settlement's development be restricted if this feature were absent? (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast a 'Defensive position' with a 'Deep-water harbour'. Which type of settlement might prioritise each, and why? (2 marks)

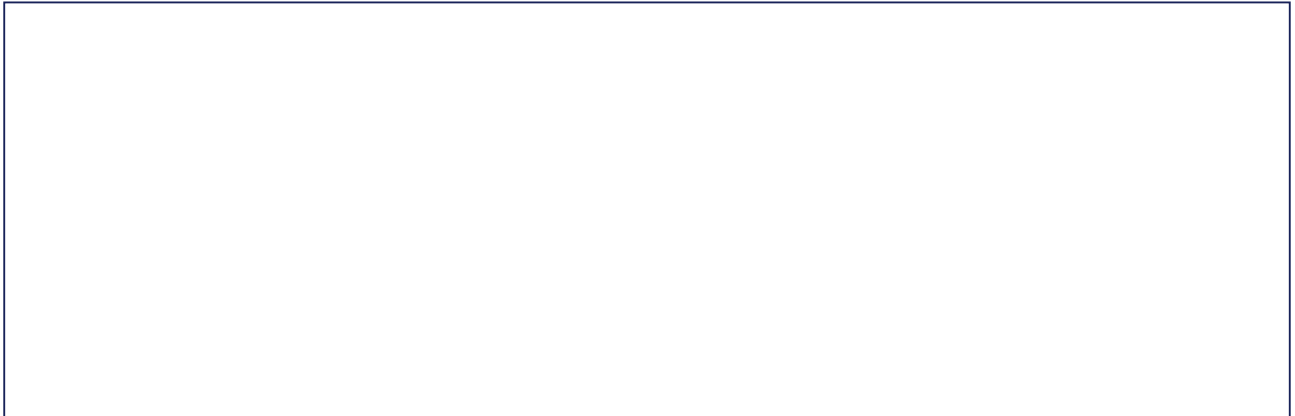
3. Justify your decision to place 'Transport links' in the 'Important for Future Growth' category rather than 'Essential for Early Survival'. (2 marks)

4. What might happen to the settlement's economy if the settlers chose a site with 'Fertile soil' but no access to a 'Deep-water harbour'? (2 marks)

5. If you were planning a modern town in the UK, identify one feature from the word bank that is less important today than it was 500 years ago, and explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

6. Create a brief proposal for a site that contains at least three features from the list. Explain why these three features would work well together to create a sustainable settlement. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view map of a new settlement called 'Finn's Cove'. Include at least four features from the word bank and label them clearly to show how the village layout uses the natural landscape.



Extension challenge: Research the origins of a local town or village in your area. Investigate the original reasons for its location—was it near a river, a crossing point, or a defensive hill? Write a short, persuasive paragraph arguing whether the original site choice still benefits the town's population today.