

Year 5 Geography: Exploring Human Settlements

Learning objective: To identify, define, and compare different types of human settlements and the reasons for their location.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of how and why people settle in different places. Finn the dolphin suggests focusing on how geography influences where towns grow!

What is a settlement?

A place where people live and build homes, ranging from a single isolated house to a large city.

What is the difference between a rural and an urban settlement?

A rural settlement is found in the countryside, often with a low population density. An urban settlement is a built-up area, like a town or city, with a high population density.

Define a 'hamlet' and explain how it differs from a village.

A hamlet is a very small settlement, usually without a church or central shop, whereas a village is larger and typically contains community services like a post office or school.

What is a conurbation?

An extended urban area, typically consisting of several towns merging with the suburbs of a central city.

Why were many early settlements built near rivers?

Rivers provided fresh water for drinking, fertile soil for farming, a source of food, and a way to transport goods.

What does the term 'infrastructure' mean in the context of a settlement?

The basic physical systems of a place, such as roads, bridges, electricity, water pipes, and sewage systems.

Explain why 'topography' is an important factor when planning a new settlement.

Topography refers to the shape and features of the land. Flat land is easier to build on and farm, while steep or mountainous terrain makes construction and transport difficult.

What is a 'site' versus a 'situation' in geography?

The 'site' is the actual land the settlement is built on, while the 'situation' describes the settlement's location in relation to its surroundings, such as nearby transport links.

Name one push factor and one pull factor that might influence a person to move to a city.

A push factor might be a lack of jobs in a rural area, a pull factor might be better access to universities or diverse employment opportunities.

What are the characteristics of a 'megacity'?

A very large city, typically with a population of over 10 million people, often serving as a global centre for finance and culture.