

Exploring Human Settlements with Finn the Dolphin

Chart Your Course: Discover Where and Why People Build Their Homes!

- A hamlet is the smallest type of settlement, often consisting of only a few houses without a church or shop, whereas a city is a large, permanent settlement with extensive infrastructure.
- Physical geography, such as the presence of mountains or floodplains, significantly influences where people choose to settle; humans generally avoid building in areas with extreme slopes or unstable ground.
- Urban settlements are characterised by high population density, tall buildings, and diverse transport networks like trains and underground systems.
- Rural settlements are areas with a lower population density, often focused on primary industries such as agriculture, forestry, or fishing.
- The 'Settlement Hierarchy' describes the ranking of places by size and services, starting from an isolated dwelling and moving up to a major conurbation.

Did you know? Did you know? The world's largest settlements often began near water! Long before modern machinery, rivers provided vital transport routes for trade, fresh water for drinking, and fertile soil for farming. Even today, most of the world's major capital cities are located on the banks of rivers or near the coast.

Key vocabulary: Urbanisation · Rural · Infrastructure · Topography · Conurbation · Settlement hierarchy · Natural resources