

Settlement Sleuths: A Geography Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and describe the characteristics of different human settlements and understand the factors that influence their location.

Join Finn the dolphin and his friends on an expedition across the land! Read each question carefully and select or write the best answer. Remember to think like a geographer.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.Urban, 4.B, 5.False, 6.A, 7.D, 8.True, 9.Infrastructure, 10.B. Greater Depth Reasoning: Settlements are influenced by physical features like rivers and flat land. Industrialisation led to urbanisation as people moved for jobs. Infrastructure (roads, power, schools) is vital for a settlement to thrive.

Word bank: Urban · Rural · Conurbation · Infrastructure · Hamlet · Services · Employment · Population

1. Which term best describes a small group of houses in the countryside, often smaller than a village? A) City B) Town C) Hamlet* D) Megalopolis (1 mark)

2. True or False: Urban settlements typically have a higher population density than rural settlements. (1 mark)

3. If a place has many high-rise buildings, factories, and busy transport links, is it an Urban or Rural settlement? (1 mark)

4. Why were many historical settlements built near rivers? A) To see fish B) For water supply and transport* C) Because they liked the sound D) To practice swimming (1 mark)

5. True or False: A 'conurbation' is a single small house in the middle of a forest. (1 mark)

6. Which of these is a primary reason people move to cities? A) Access to diverse employment opportunities* B) To find more trees C) To avoid meeting people D) To live in silence (1 mark)

7. What does the term 'infrastructure' refer to? A) Only houses B) Only shops C) Only parks D) Essential systems like roads, power, and schools* (1 mark)

8. True or False: Geography influences where people choose to build settlements. (1 mark)

9. What is the name for the collection of shops, schools, and hospitals that people in a settlement need to use? (1 mark)

10. Which feature would you be least likely to find in a remote rural village? A) Farmland B) A large underground subway system* C) A local post office D) Fields (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view of a settlement of your own invention. Include at least one physical feature (like a river or hill) and three types of infrastructure that make the settlement a great place to live.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why a settlement might grow into a large town over several centuries. 2. Compare and contrast the daily lives of someone living in a remote hamlet versus a bustling city centre. 3. Justify your answer: If you were starting a new settlement, why would you choose a location near a natural resource? 4. What might happen if a large city suddenly lost all its transport infrastructure? 5. Why do some rural settlements struggle to maintain services like schools and shops? 6. Design a plan for a sustainable future town; what features would you include to ensure it helps the environment?