

Finn's Guide to Human Settlements

Learning objective: To identify and describe the characteristics of different types of human settlements.

Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions using your geographical knowledge and the text provided.

Finn the dolphin loves exploring the coastlines of the UK. From his vantage point in the waves, he often observes how humans choose to live. A settlement is simply a place where people build homes and live together. These range from tiny hamlets with only a few houses, to sprawling cities with millions of residents. Settlements are usually built near important resources, such as fresh water, fertile land for farming, or sheltered harbours for trade.

Rural settlements, like small villages, often have a lower population density. Here, you might find quiet country lanes and fields of crops. In contrast, urban settlements like large towns and cities are densely populated. They feature complex infrastructure, including tall blocks of flats, large transport networks, and busy shopping malls. Finn notices that as technology advances, settlements change. Some villages grow into towns as more people move there for work, while busy cities often expand to include more parks and schools. Whether it is a quiet countryside cottage or a bustling city apartment, every settlement provides a unique home for the people who live there.

Word bank: settlement · urban · rural · infrastructure · population · hamlet · city

1. According to the text, what are two reasons why humans might choose to build a settlement in a specific location? (2 marks)

2. What is the main difference between a rural settlement and an urban settlement? (2 marks)

3. Why might a small village grow into a larger town over time? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why does Finn think settlements are not always the same size or shape? (2 marks)

5. If you were choosing a place to build a new settlement, would you prefer a rural or urban area? Give one reason for your choice. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw two separate boxes. In the first, illustrate a quiet rural village with fields and a farmhouse. In the second, illustrate a busy urban city scene with tall buildings, roads, and shops.



Extension challenge: Research a local settlement in your area. Is it classified as a village, town, or city? Write a short paragraph explaining the main features of your local area.