Finn’s Guide to Settlements

Learning objective: To understand why humans build settlements and how they develop over time.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences.

Finn the dolphin loves to travel along the coast, observing how humans live. A settlement is a place where people live and work. Long ago, people chose to build their homes near important resources like fresh water, fertile land for farming, or sheltered bays for fishing. A small group of houses might start as a tiny hamlet. As more people move there, it might grow into a village, often with a shop or a school. If the place becomes busy with many roads, large buildings, and lots of jobs, it can grow into a town or even a bustling city. The location of a settlement is very important. Many towns grew up near rivers because the water helped people trade goods and travel easily. Today, some settlements are famous for being near beautiful mountains, while others are known for being centres of industry. Whether it is a quiet village or a giant city, every settlement is a home for a community of people who work together to make their town a special place to live.

Word bank: settlement · hamlet · village · town · city · resources · location

1. According to the text, what is a settlement? (2 marks)

2. Name two things that helped people decide where to build their homes long ago. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think settlements often grow larger when they are built near a river? (2 marks)

4. What is the difference between a hamlet and a city, based on the passage? (2 marks)

5. If you could design your own new settlement, would you build it near the sea or near a forest? Give a reason for your choice. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of a small village. Include a river, a cluster of houses, and one important building like a shop or school.

Extension challenge: Research your own local area. Is your home in a village, town, or city? Find out one reason why a settlement was built in your area (for example, is there a river or a railway nearby?).