Year 3 Geography Assessment: Understanding Settlements

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and explain the reasons for the location and development of human settlements.

Read each question carefully. Use your geographical knowledge to answer in full sentences where required. Write clearly and check your spellings.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the coastline and the land beyond it. He has noticed that humans build their homes in groups. Some are small clusters near rivers, while others are large, busy places with many tall buildings and roads. Finn wants to understand why people choose to live where they do.

Word bank: settlement · village · town · city · natural resources · trade · transport · shelter · land use

1. 1. What is the difference between a village and a city? (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. 2. Name two natural resources that might have encouraged people to build a settlement near a river in the past. (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. 3. Explain one reason why a settlement might be built near a main road or a railway line today. (3 marks) (3 marks)

4. 4. Describe two features you would expect to see in a town centre that you might not see in a small village. (4 marks) (4 marks)

5. 5. A new group of people wants to build a small settlement. List three important things they need to find in the local area to help them survive and thrive. (3 marks) (3 marks)

6. 6. Extended Writing Task: Imagine you are an explorer choosing a location to build a new settlement. Write a paragraph explaining where you would build it and why. Consider water, transport, and safety in your answer. (6 marks) (6 marks)

Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view map of a small village. Include a river, a road, at least four houses, and one local shop or community building.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Research why many major cities in the UK are built near the coast. Write two sentences explaining the importance of ports for trade.