Year 6 Geography: Settlements and Land Use

Learning objective: To understand the characteristics of different types of settlements, their functions, and how they change over time.

Read the front of each flashcard to test your knowledge of human geography. Flip the card to check if your definition or answer matches the one provided.

What is a settlement?

A place where people live and build their homes, ranging from a single isolated house to a large city.

What is the main difference between an urban and a rural settlement?

Urban settlements are towns or cities with high population density and many buildings, whereas rural settlements are in the countryside with lower population density, such as villages or hamlets.

Define a 'conurbation'.

An extended urban area, typically consisting of several towns that have grown and merged together to form one large, continuous city area.

What does 'land use' mean in geography?

The way in which land is utilised by humans, such as for residential housing, industrial factories, commercial shops, or agricultural farming.

What is a settlement hierarchy?

A way of arranging settlements into a rank or order based on their size, population, and the range of services they provide (e.g., hamlet to city).

Name three factors that might influence where a settlement is built.

Access to a water supply, flat land for building, defensive positions, trade routes, or nearby natural resources.

What is meant by the term 'infrastructure'?

The basic physical systems of a place, such as roads, bridges, pipes for water and electricity, and public transport networks.

Explain why many early settlements were built near rivers.

Rivers provided fresh water for drinking and washing, a way to transport goods, and often fertile soil nearby for growing crops.

What is 'sustainability' in the context of a modern town?

Managing a settlement so that it meets the needs of people today without damaging the environment or resources for future generations.

Give an example of a service you would expect to find in a large city but perhaps not in a small village.

Examples include a major hospital, a university, a large shopping centre, or an international airport.

Finn the dolphin is studying maps; what is a 'brownfield site'?

Land that has been previously built on or used for industry that is now being redeveloped for new housing or other uses.

What is a 'commuter town'?

A settlement where the majority of the population travels elsewhere (usually to a larger city) for their daily work.