Finn’s Settlement Explorer Field Guide

Learning objective: To identify and describe the characteristics of different types of human settlements and the reasons for their location.

Join Finn the dolphin on his land-based expedition! Choose a settlement you know well (such as your local village, town, or a city you have visited) and use this field guide to analyse why people chose to build there. Think about physical geography, resources, and transport links.

Word bank: urban · rural · infrastructure · settlement · topography · resources · transport · population · industry · amenities

1. Settlement Classification: Identify whether your chosen location is a village, town, or city. Explain why you have categorised it this way, mentioning its size or main services. (2 marks)

2. Location Factors: Why was this settlement built here? Think about historical reasons such as access to water, flat land for building, or natural protection. (3 marks)

3. Land Use: Describe how the land is used in this settlement. Are there areas for housing, shops, factories, or parks? How are these zones organised? (3 marks)

4. Transport Links: What forms of transport connect this settlement to the wider world? How do these links help the settlement to grow or function? (2 marks)

5. Future Growth: If you were a town planner, would you expand this settlement? Give one reason why growth might be good and one challenge that more people might bring. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a 'ghost town' or a settlement that has been abandoned. Write a short paragraph explaining why people might have left, comparing it to the thriving settlement you described in your field guide.