Settlements: Why Do We Live Where We Do?

Learning objective: To explain the reasons for the location of settlements and identify different types of land use.

Use the writing frame below to structure your report. Think about why people choose to build towns near rivers, transport links, or natural resources. Use the word bank to help your writing flow.

Throughout history, humans have carefully chosen where to build their homes based on survival, trade, and the surrounding landscape.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in addition to · infrastructure · predominantly · geographical features · accessibility · urbanisation · subsequently · on the other hand

1. Introduction: Define what a settlement is and explain why early humans might have chosen to settle near a river. Start with: A settlement is... (2 marks)

2. Location Factors: Discuss two key reasons why a modern town might grow in a specific location (e.g., transport links or natural resources). Start with: One major factor influencing the location of a town is... (3 marks)

3. Land Use: Describe how land is used in your local area. Consider the difference between residential, commercial, and industrial zones. Start with: In my local area, the land is used for... (3 marks)

4. Changes over Time: Explain how a settlement might change as its population grows or as technology improves. Start with: As a settlement develops, it often experiences... (3 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise the most important factor for a successful settlement. Start with: In conclusion, I believe the most vital aspect of a settlement's success is... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are Finn the dolphin exploring a coastal settlement from the water. Write a short paragraph describing how the harbour helps the town trade with other parts of the world.