



YEAR 6 SETTLEMENT AND LAND USE



WHAT IS A SETTLEMENT?

Settlement refers to the places where people live. These places can be large cities, small towns, villages, or even individual houses in the countryside. Settlements can be found all over the world, and they vary in size and shape depending on the geography, history, and needs of the people who live there.

TYPES OF SETTLEMENT

There are different types of settlements, and they are often grouped into three main categories:

1. **Rural Settlements** – These are found in the countryside and are usually smaller. People living in rural settlements often work in farming, fishing, or forestry.
2. **Urban Settlements** – These are larger areas, such as cities and towns. Urban areas have more buildings, roads, and services such as schools, hospitals, and shops. People in urban areas may work in offices, factories, or stores.
3. **Suburban Settlements** – These are found around larger cities and are a mix of both urban and rural features. People in suburban areas often live in houses with gardens, but they can easily travel to the city for work or leisure.

WHY DO PEOPLE LIVE WHERE THEY DO?

There are many factors that influence where people choose to live. Some of these include:

- **Access to Resources** – People settle near resources such as water, fertile land for farming, or mineral deposits.
- **Jobs** – Cities and towns often have more job opportunities, which can attract people from the countryside.
- **Transport Links** – Places with good roads, railways, or ports are more attractive for settlement because people can travel easily and move goods.
- **Climate and Weather** – People often choose to live in places with a climate that is comfortable and suitable for farming or building houses.



LAND USE: WHAT IS IT?

Land use refers to how the land is used by people for different activities. These activities can include building homes, farming, industry, or recreation. There are different types of land use, and they can change depending on the needs of the people in an area.

Types of Land Use

1. **Agricultural Land Use** – This is land used for farming. Farmers grow crops, raise animals, and produce food on agricultural land.
2. **Residential Land Use** – This is land used for building homes. It includes everything from small houses in villages to large apartment buildings in cities.
3. **Industrial Land Use** – This is land used for factories, power plants, or other industries. These areas are important for producing goods and materials.
4. **Commercial Land Use** – This is land used for businesses such as shops, restaurants, and offices. Commercial areas are important for trade and services.
5. **Recreational Land Use** – This includes land used for parks, sports fields, and other leisure activities. People use recreational land to relax and have fun.

HOW DO SETTLEMENTS AFFECT LAND USE?

As settlements grow, they can change the way land is used. For example, when a small village becomes a town, more land may be used for roads, shops, and schools. This can lead to less space for farming. In cities, people might build tall buildings to make the most of limited space. As a result, there may be less room for nature and open areas. However, urban planners try to make sure that land is used in a way that benefits everyone, such as by creating parks or designing buildings with green spaces.

THE FUTURE OF SETTLEMENTS AND LAND USE

As the world's population grows, settlements and land use will continue to change. More people will move into cities, and new technologies might allow us to use land more efficiently. There may also be more focus on sustainability, which means using land in a way that meets our needs without harming the environment for future generations.

Understanding how settlements and land are used is important because it helps us plan better communities and protect the environment. It shows how our choices today affect where and how we live tomorrow.

FIND OUT MORE...

[BBC Bitesize Exploring Settlements](#)



EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. What are the three main types of settlements, and how do they differ from each other?
2. Why do people often choose to live near resources such as water or fertile land?
3. Give two examples of land used for agricultural purposes and explain what activities might take place on that land.
4. How does the growth of a settlement, like a village becoming a town, affect the way land is used?
5. What do urban planners do to make sure land is used in a way that benefits everyone?