

GEOGRAPHY · Y3–Y6

Settlements

Knowledge Organiser — Y3–Y6

Settlement types (smallest to largest)

1

Hamlet

A tiny group of houses, no services. Population: under 100.

2

Village

A small settlement with some services (pub, church, shop). Population: 100–10,000.

3

Town

A larger settlement with shops, schools, healthcare, and industry. Population: 10,000–100,000.

4

City

A large settlement with complex services. Usually has a cathedral in the UK.

5

Conurbation

Several towns and cities that have grown together to form one large urban area.

Example: Greater London, West Midlands

6

Megacity

A city with a population over 10 million people.

Example: Tokyo, Mumbai, São Paulo

Site and situation



1

Site

The actual land on which a settlement was built. Good sites had fresh water, shelter, flat land, and defensible positions.

2

Situation

The position of a settlement in relation to surrounding features — rivers, trade routes, other settlements.

3

Land use zones

Different parts of a city have different main uses: Central Business District (CBD), inner city (housing + old industry), suburbs, rural-urban fringe.

4

Urbanisation

The process by which more of the world's population comes to live in cities.

Example: Over 55% of the world's population is urban

5

Counter-urbanisation

People moving away from cities to rural or suburban areas — often because of commuting and improved transport.

