



Year 3 Settlements

Lesson Series:

1. Settlements
2. Types of settlements
3. Urban, Rural and Suburban areas
4. Population Density
5. Sites and Situations of local settlements
6. Assessment

Name: _____

Class: _____

Lesson 1

What is a Settlement?

Settlements are places where people live. In Ancient times, people used to move around a lot to find food and shelter. They were known as **Nomadic hunter-gatherers** - **meaning they moved to find the resources they needed.**

They then began to find areas where they could plant crops to feed their families and because this took time, they would **settle** and build homes. Many of these settlements are near a water source like a river, lake or the sea as we need water to survive. This is why most cities are near large rivers.



In modern times, people tend to live together in towns or cities because it means we are close to all of the **services** we need: shops, work places, post offices, hospitals and schools. We can move around these settlements easily as they have good **transport links** like trains, buses and roads.



Lesson 2

Types of settlements:

There are 5 different types of settlements: hamlets, villages, towns, cities and conurbations. Which settlement you find in an area, will depend on the resources the area has. If the land is flat, strong and by a river, you may find a town or city with a greater number of buildings and a higher number of people living there. When there are more people, that brings more services to the area and the city and town will continue to grow. This means the area is **urban** and can sometimes lead to **conurbations** which is when a city gets so large that it connects with other towns, making a huge urban area.



Rural areas are more spread out, with less **services** and people living there. These are often smaller farming communities or areas where the landscape is harder to build on.



Lesson 3

Urban, Rural and Suburban areas:

Peterborough is a **city** and would be an **urban area** because it has many structures including power supplies and transport options, roads for cars and buses, railways etc. We call this '**infrastructure**'. It also has shops, a hospital, schools and services that can support a large number of people.

Wisbech also has many of these **services** so would also be called an urban area. It is a town, not a city and does not have access by train.



Leverington is a village and a more **rural area** because it has fewer services and people living in the area.



Lesson 4

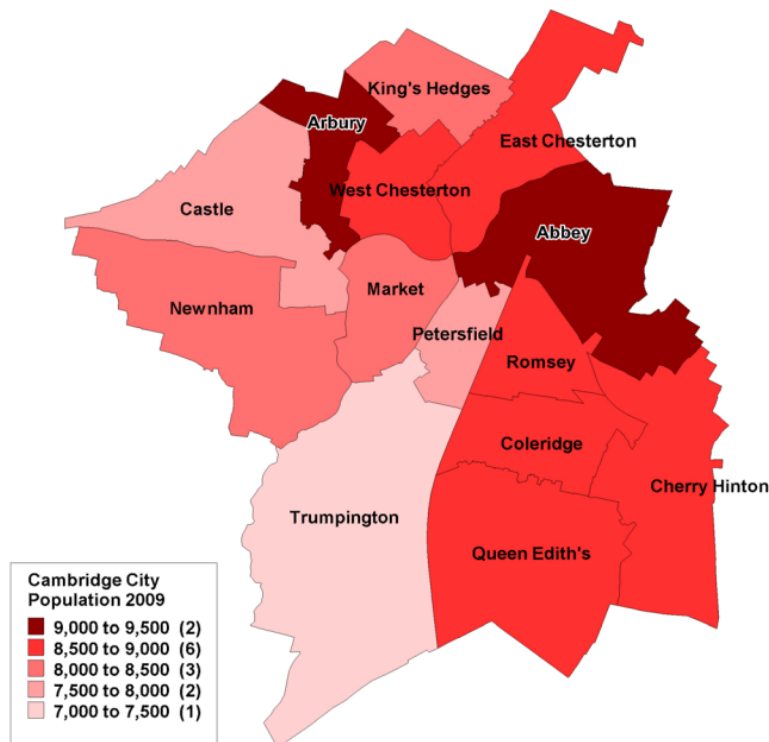
Population density:

Geographers notice differences in locations; they might notice areas where people are more **dispersed (rural)** and those that are more crowded

(**towns** and **cities**). **Hamlets** and **villages** are based in rural areas, which will have fewer people and have lots of open space. People live far apart (neighbours could be a drive away) and the population could be in the tens of people.



Cities and towns are located in urban areas and are densely populated. People living in urban areas live very close together. There are many thousands of people in these areas. **Population density** is the number of persons per unit of land area. It is frequently measured in persons per square mile or persons per square kilometre. Commonly, this may be calculated for a county, city, country or the entire world. It is helpful to know data on population density when planning for services such as schools, roads and hospitals. If the population rises in an area - geographers will help that area work out what services they may need to increase to support all of the people living there. For example, if there are more children, then another school or nursery may need building.



Lesson 5

What do settlements need?

Ancient settlements were always found in valleys, along coasts, near a river or at river crossings. This was because people needed access to water for travelling, drinking and farming. Urban areas started to develop because of the need for land for **agriculture**, such as animal farms and crop growing. Woods were historically used because they would have been useful for construction, foraging and defence because it is hard to fight in woodland. After the establishment of a settlement, how much it grows may then depend on its situation. The situation of a settlement is its location in relation to surrounding human and physical features. Physical features that would help a settlement grow would be: access to water for drinking and transport, land for providing food, protection (like woodland or hills) and the amount of space the area has. Human features would be: road or train links; services like healthcare, schools, shops and places to work and safety services like police and fire stations

