Lesson Description

In this lesson we:

- Explain the difference between nucleated and dispersed settlements
- Review the different classifications of settlement in terms of size
- Revise the different shapes of rural settlements and discuss the factors that influence them
- Discuss the difference between site and situation
- Examine the physical and economic factors that influence the site of a settlement

Summary

Settlement Patterns

Nucleated or clustered patterns occur when buildings in a settlement are grouped together.
Isolated or dispersed patterns occur when buildings in a settlement are spread out over an area.

Classification of Settlements

Dispersed settlements include isolated farmsteads and hamlets and are UNIFUNCTIONAL.
Nucleated settlements include villages, towns, cities, metropolises, conurbations and megalopolises and are MULTIFUNCTIONAL.

Source:
https://greenfieldgeography.wikispaces.com/IGCSE+Settlements+and+GCSE+Settlements
Settlement Shapes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlement Shape</th>
<th>Possible Reasons for Settlement Shape</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Circular</td>
<td>Buildings situated around a central important area / building e.g. a church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossroads / X-shape</td>
<td>Buildings situated at an intersection of roads</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-shape</td>
<td>Buildings situated at a T-junction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linear</td>
<td>Buildings situated around a linear feature eg. road or river</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Site and Situation

The SITE is the actual place / piece of land on which a settlement is built.
The SITUATION is where the settlement is in relation to its surrounding features.
E.g. Kimberley is actually built on a poor site – but its close proximity to areas where diamonds were found was an advantage.

Factors Influencing the Site of a Rural Settlement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Factors</th>
<th>Economic Factors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fresh water supply – WET-POINT SETTLEMENTS: permanent water supplies define the location of a settlement</td>
<td>Feasibility of commercial farming: large areas of fertile soil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water avoidance - DRY-POINT SETTLEMENTS: site is chosen to avoid the danger of flooding in a wet area</td>
<td>Natural harbours: fishing, trade</td>
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<td>Farming: arable land, decent grazing, flat land</td>
<td>Tourist attractions and ecotourism</td>
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<td>Building materials and energy sources: availability of wood, clay, grass, mud</td>
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<td>Microclimate: slope aspect and inversions</td>
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<td>Relief: Easier to build and farm on flat land</td>
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Test Yourself

Question 1

(Adapted from NSC P1 2010)

Study the following diagram in order to answer the following questions.

1.1) Define the term Settlement. (2)
1.2) Classify settlements A and B according their settlement pattern. (2+2) (4)
1.3) Suggest a reason that has influenced the shape and pattern of settlements A, B, C and D. (4x2) (8)
1.4) Would the farms in settlement B be considered commercial or subsistence? Give a reason to support your answer. (2+2) (4)
Question 1
(Adapted from NSC Paper 2008)

Study the following diagram (assume it represents a place in South Africa) carefully in order to answer the following questions.

1.1) What settlement pattern is evident at Bleaham?

1.2) Give TWO advantages of this type of settlement pattern.

1.3) What settlement shape is evident at Belmouth? Give a reason to support your answer.

1.4) Describe THREE factors that could have influenced the site of Bleaham.

1.5) Describe the situation of Belmouth.

1.6) Discuss THREE reasons to explain why Albert's shack is not placed on a good site.

1.7) Would Bleaham be considered a unifunctional or multifunctional settlement? Give a reason to support your answer.

Links