ELQ Geography

Entry Level Geography
Unit 8: Settlement

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Rewarding Learning

Unit 8: Settlement

Learning Outcome 1:
Demonstrate their understanding of the key definitions of settlement'

Learning Outcome 2:
Describe and explain the key characteristics of a MEDC city.

Learning Outcome 3:
Describe and explain the key characteristics of a LEDC city.

Guidance notes

This resource includes information and suggested tasks relating to Entry Level Geography. This booklet has been produced to meet the requirements for Entry Level 3 but teachers may amend the material to suit the needs of their learners.

The list of resources is neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

For key definitions of settlement:

http://www.coolgeography.co.uk/GCSE/Year%2010/Human%20World/Settlement%20factors/Settlement%20factors.htm
http://www.geography.learnontheinternet.co.uk/topics/characteristicsofsettlements.html
http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/geography/settlements/revise-it/site-and-situation

For key features of an MEDC city:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/urban_environments/settlement_characteristics_rev2.shtml
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/urban_environments/urban_models_medcs_rev2.shtml
https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision/geography/settlement/models-land-use
http://titanic-quarter.com/about

For key characteristics of an LEDC city:
http://www.geography.learnontheinternet.co.uk/topics/urbanproblsledcs.html
https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zx7ypbk/revision/1

Introduction – site and location of a settlement

Settlement can be defined as a place where people live. Settlements will be vary in size from just a few houses to mega cities with millions of inhabitants.

The location and growth of a settlement depended on its **site** and **location**. The **site** is the actual place where people decided to build their settlement. The growth of the settlement depends on its location in relation to natural resources and other settlements.

Settlement **site** is the actual land that the settlement is built upon. When early settlers were choosing a site for their new settlement they would have looked for a site that was:

*   near a reliable water supply;
*   away from marshy areas or places that could be flooded
*   easily defended in case of attack
*   close to a supply of materials to build their homes
*   near agricultural land so they could grow crops to feed themselves
*   near a supply of fuel for cooking and heating.

Settlement **location** is where a settlement is compared to other things around it such as other settlements, mountains and rivers.

Settlement hierarchies

A hierarchy can be defined as placing things in order of importance.

In a settlement hierarchy, the most important settlement is at the top of the hierarchy. Cities are at the top of the hierarchy because of their high populations and their many goods and services.
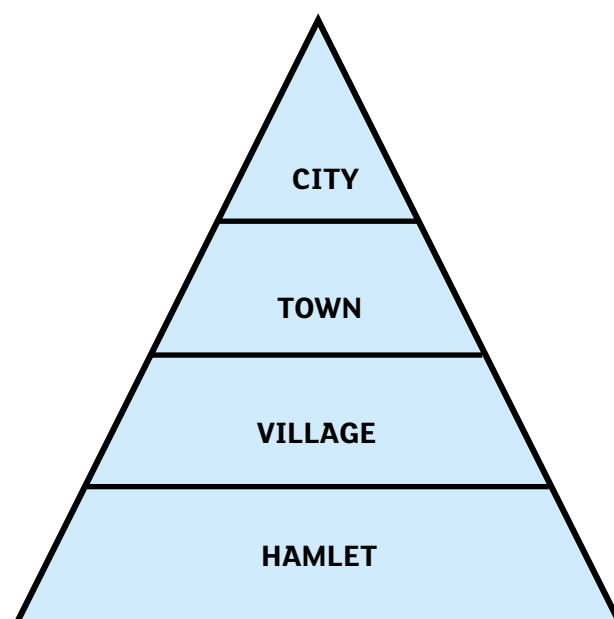

Fig 1: A Settlement Hierarchy

Hamlets and villages are at the bottom of the hierarchy. There will be many more hamlets and villages compared to cities. However, they have smaller populations and fewer goods and services.

Goods and services

Goods are specific items and services are activities provided by other people. Goods and services can be classified into one of three categories; low order, middle order or high order depending on how often people buy a good and use a service.

- **Low order goods** are the goods that people buy on a regular basis, perhaps every day. Goods such as milk, bread and newspapers are low order goods. **Low order services** are the services people use on a regular basis, for example, the post office. Hamlets and villages usually have low order goods and services only.

- **Middle order goods** are the goods that people buy less frequently, perhaps on a fortnight to monthly basis. Good examples include shoes and clothes. **Middle order** services are the services people use less frequently, for example, bank or building society. Towns usually have low and middle order goods and services.

- **High order goods** are the goods that are bought on rare occasions, for example, a new suite of furniture. **High order services** are services we use on rare occasions, for example an international airport. Cities usually have a full range of low, middle and high order goods and services.

Key features of an MEDC city

MEDC stands for a 'more economically developed country'. The UK is an example of a MEDC. MEDC cities are multifunctional in that they perform a range of functions, for example health, education and retail. MEDC cities are large and are made up of a CBD, inner city area and suburbs.

CBD – stands for the **Central Business District** and, as the name suggests, the CBD is found in the heart of each city. This is the most crowded part of a city. This is because this is where all the main shops are located for example Topshop, JD Sports, Marks & Spencer etc.

All transport routes lead to the CBD so this is why there is also a lot of traffic.

The price of land is high as the land in the CBD is highly sought after for residential or business use. There will be many tall buildings and skyscrapers because there is limited land to build outwards so people are forced to build upwards instead. There are residential areas but most people will live in apartment blocks.

The oldest buildings will also be found in the CBD because this is the oldest part of the city.

Fig 2: Central Business District – Belfast

Fig 3: Central Business District - Glasgow

Inner city – The inner city surrounds the CBD. This is a residential area and many people who live in inner city areas will live in smaller sized and poor quality houses, for example, terraced housing or flats. This is because land space availability is also limited in the inner city. The streets are usually narrow and small. There will be corner shops and small supermarkets in the inner city for the use of the local residents as well as some locally owned businesses.

Fig 4: Cars Parked on an Inner City Street

Fig 5: Inner City Terraced Housing

Fig 6: A Derelict Building in an Inner City Area

Fig 7: Poor Quality Inner City Housing

Crime rates are generally high and unemployment is common. There will also be many derelict buildings that are no longer in use (this is because many of these buildings are old and rundown). Some inner city areas have been regenerated to give the inner city a new lease of life.

Suburbs – these are the residential areas at the edge of cities. Many semi-detached and detached housing will be found in this part of the city. The housing is of higher quality with gardens to the front and the back. This makes the suburbs less crowded. There is more land on the edge of the city and it is cheaper than in the CBD or inner city areas. Air quality is good because there is less traffic on the wide roads. Parks will also be found in this part of the city because there is lots of vacant land.

Fig 8: Aerial View of a Suburb

Fig 9: A Suburban Housing Development

Pattern of land use in Belfast

The CBD of Belfast is extremely busy. Large shopping centres such as Victoria Square and Castle Court attract many shoppers. The tallest buildings are found here as it is cheaper to build up than out. Old buildings are found here such as the City Hall (opened in 1906) as this is the oldest part of the city. The CBD is heavily congested with traffic because all the transport routes lead here and there are busy railway and bus stations found in the CBD such as the Europa Bus Station.

Fig 10: Belfast City Hall

The inner city in Belfast was built in the 19th century to house all the people who were moving into Belfast to work in the expanding industries. The houses that were built were small terraced houses built in very narrow streets with no front gardens or driveways. This was done to house as many people as possible. The streets off the lower Newtownards Road in Belfast are good examples.

The suburbs in Belfast include many large detached or semi-detached houses built in the mid to late twentieth century. They have gardens and driveways because there is much more land availability in the outskirts of the city. Examples of these types of houses can be found in south Belfast along the Malone Road.

Regenerating Belfast – Titanic Quarter

The Titanic Quarter in Belfast is home to a massive regeneration scheme. This area was once a derelict industrial site along the River Lagan that was previously used for ship building. Regeneration has turned this area into a thriving waterfront development with new modern residential areas, businesses, offices, hotels, bars and other leisure activities. The scheme cost

£5 billion. The overall aim for the regeneration scheme was to create an area in the inner city of Belfast that was pleasant for local people to live in, a good place to work in and also aimed to attract more tourists to Belfast.

Fig 11: Titanic Quarter, Belfast

Fig 12: Titanic Belfast

Rapid growth of LEDC Cities

Cities in LEDCs or 'less economically developed countries' are growing rapidly. The reasons why include:

- Rural to urban migration – many people who live in the rural areas (countryside) within LEDCs move to cities in the hope of improving their quality of life. They leave farming in the countryside and take on jobs in the city where the pay is higher.

- There is limited access to family planning services and education about contraception. LEDCs will often not have the resources to provide family planning services and educate the people about the use of contraception. Birth rates will be high as a result and LEDCs will continue to grow.

- In some countries it is traditional and important culturally to have large families. Most people in LEDCs marry young and have many children. Children are seen as an asset because when the children get older, they will earn money to support the family. They will also look after their parents in old age. The more children they have, the greater the rate of growth taking place in many LEDC cities.

Shanty Towns in Kolkata, India

The fact that cities in LEDCs are growing rapidly means that many people endure poor living conditions. In Kolkata, some of the worst conditions are found in the shanty towns on the edge of the city, near the CBD or along main transport routes. They tend to be unplanned and are often illegal. Houses are self-built using basic materials and shanty towns have very few services like schools or medication centres. Shanty town residents face many problems on a daily basis. In Kolkata in India where approximately 12.3 million people live, there are about 5500 shanty towns and it is thought that one third of the population in Kolkata live in these shanty towns.

Fig 13: Shanty Town in Jodhpur, India

The following is a list of the main characteristics of the shanty towns throughout Kolkata:

- The shacks that people live in are of very poor quality because they are built of poor quality materials.

- Shacks are built very close together and it is often 6 people per shack because population in Kolkata is so high.

- Most people live in poverty because jobs are limited and in short supply and the jobs that are available are very low paid (the average monthly earnings are between £7 and £24).

- Crime is high because there is a lack of security and policing.

- Disease spreads very quickly because of the poor sanitation and limited health care that is available.

Fig 14: Shanty Town in Nairobi, Kenya

Activity 1

Find a map showing the town or city where you live or one near you. Use the map to describe three reasons for the site of the settlement.

Name of town or city _____

The site of this town/city was chosen because:

1. _____

_____

2. _____

_____
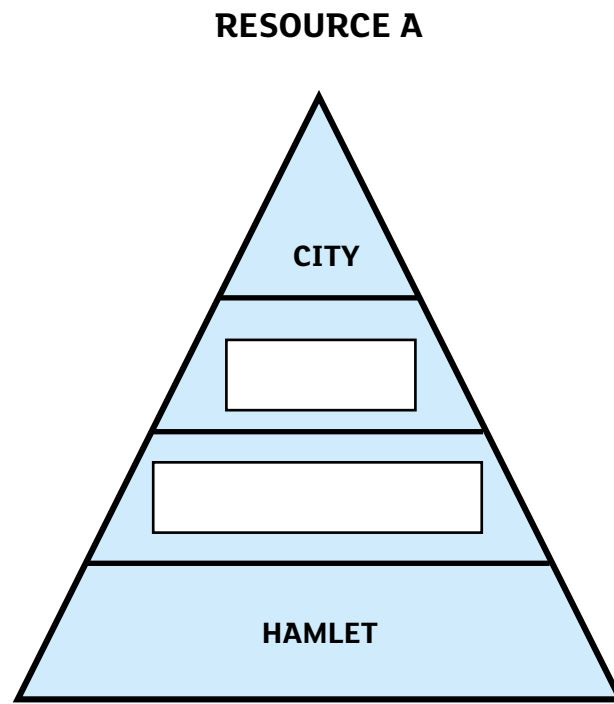
3. _____

_____

Describe the location of the town/city.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Study **Resource A** which shows the outline of a settlement hierarchy.

RESOURCE A

Complete **Resource A** by placing the words **TOWN** and **VILLAGE** in the correct places.

Complete the following sentences by underlining the correct word or words to describe the settlement hierarchy.

In a settlement hierarchy, the **least/most** important settlement is at the top of the hierarchy.

Villages/cities are at the top of the hierarchy because of their **low/high** populations and their many goods and services.

Hamlets/towns are at the bottom of the hierarchy. There will be **fewer/more** hamlets and villages than cities. They have **smaller/larger** populations and fewer goods and services.

Low order goods and services include a **bakery/jewellers**. Low order goods are used by lots of people almost **never/every day**.

Middle order goods and services include **clothes shop/newsagents**. Middle order goods are used **less/more** often that low order goods.

High order goods and services include **estate agents/universities**. High order goods and services are used rarely. High order goods and services are found only in **cities/villages**.

Activity 2

Study Resource B which shows three areas in a MEDC city. For each picture:

- Identify the area (suburbs; central business district, inner city); and
- Describe and explain the key features of each area.

RESOURCE B

Find a map of Belfast or another city of your choice in a MEDC. Use the map and the Internet to describe the pattern of land use in Belfast or your chosen city.

Here are some words and geographical terms to help you

Central business district   **shops**   **suburbs**   **inner city**   **offices**

Terraced   **detached**   **semi-detached**   **gardens**   **busy**   **congested**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Explain the pattern of land use in Belfast or your chosen city.

_____

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_____

Use http://titanic-quarter.com/about to find out more about the Titanic Quarter in Belfast.

Describe the regeneration planning scheme in the Titanic Quarter, Belfast city.

You should write about the aims of the scheme and what it looks like.

You could include some pictures of the Titanic Quarter in your answer.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Explain why this area was regenerated.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Activity 3

Study Resource C which gives some information about the three largest cities in the world.

Resource C

The three largest cities in the world are:

- Shanghai (24 256 800 people)

- Beijing (21 516 000 people)

- Delhi (16 787 941 people)

Outline two reasons for the rapid growth taking place in many LEDC cities.

1. _____

_____

_____

2. _____

_____

_____

Almost a billion people live in shanty towns in LEDC cities. Resource D shows Morro do Pavaozinho, a shanty town in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Resource D

Describe the location of one shanty town you have studied.

Name of shanty town_____

Name of City   _____

The shanty town is located _____

_____

_____

Describe and explain the main characteristics of this shanty town.

_____

_____

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