

## Year 6 Geography Knowledge Organiser: Why do we live where we do?

Key Word	Meaning
Settlement	A place where people live
Site	The actual place where a settlement first grew up.
Settlement hierarchy	As you move up the settlement hierarchy the size of the settlement increases, as does the population and the range of services available.
Conurbation	an extended urban area, typically consisting of several towns merging with the suburbs of a central city.
Settlement function	Its main economic activity or purpose.
Retail	The selling of goods and services.
Leisure	Activities people do when they are not working, to relax and enjoy themselves including cinemas, sport centre and restaurants.
Commuter	A person who travels some distance to work on a regular basis.
Suburbs	An area on the edge of a large town or city where people who work in the town or city often live.
CBD	Central Business District, normally found in the middle of a city.
Nucleated settlement	Buildings that are grouped closely together.
Linear settlement	Buildings spread out in a line beside a main road, railway or river.
Dispersed settlement	Several building or farms spread out over a wide area.
Economic	To do with industry, jobs, earning a living and wealth.
Social	To do with people and how they interact with the environment.
Environmental	To do with the natural surroundings where people plants and animals live.
Redevelopment	Construction of new buildings in an urban area, typically after demolishing the existing buildings.
Regeneration	Improving areas that have become run down.

**Early settlers** often looked for certain features in an area to make life easier:

- flat land, to make building easier and safer
- local raw materials, eg wood and stone, to build homes
- a local water supply for drinking, washing, cooking and transport
- dry land, so that people could build on areas that don't flood
- a defensible site, eg a hilltop or river bend, to protect from attackers
- good farm land with fertile soils, so people could grow crops
- shelter, eg to protect from bad weather
- transport links, eg a ford or low crossing point of a river

### Urban change and Regeneration

As towns and cities have grown, some areas have become run down. This is particularly true of some old inner-city areas. Governments have tried to improve conditions in these areas. Problems of old inner-city areas and the city centre include:

- Overcrowding
- Poor-quality housing
- Traffic congestion
- Lack of open space
- Old industrial areas (brownfield sites)
- Competition from out-of-town shopping centres
- Expensive land



This has encouraged some people and industries to move out of central areas and has contributed to urban sprawl. This can put pressure on **greenfield sites** on the edge of the city. Some people are concerned about losing green open spaces. **Green belts** are protected areas that have been set up

## Settlement Types

### Hamlet



This is a very small group of homes. There are unlikely to be many other facilities.

### Village



This is larger than a hamlet and contains more functions, eg a few shops, a post office, a village hall and possibly a primary school and a doctor's practice. Villages can vary in size from a few hundred people to several thousand.

### Town



This may contain tens of thousands of people. Towns have a range of functions such as shopping centres, secondary schools, railway stations and hospitals.

### City



A city is an area with large numbers of people. Cities provide a very wide range of functions including more specialised functions such as universities, large hospitals and sports stadiums. In the past cities were identified as places containing cathedrals but today the Queen decides which places are cities, based on a number of different factors including the size of the population.

## Land-use Model

### A Summary Model of Land-Use in a City

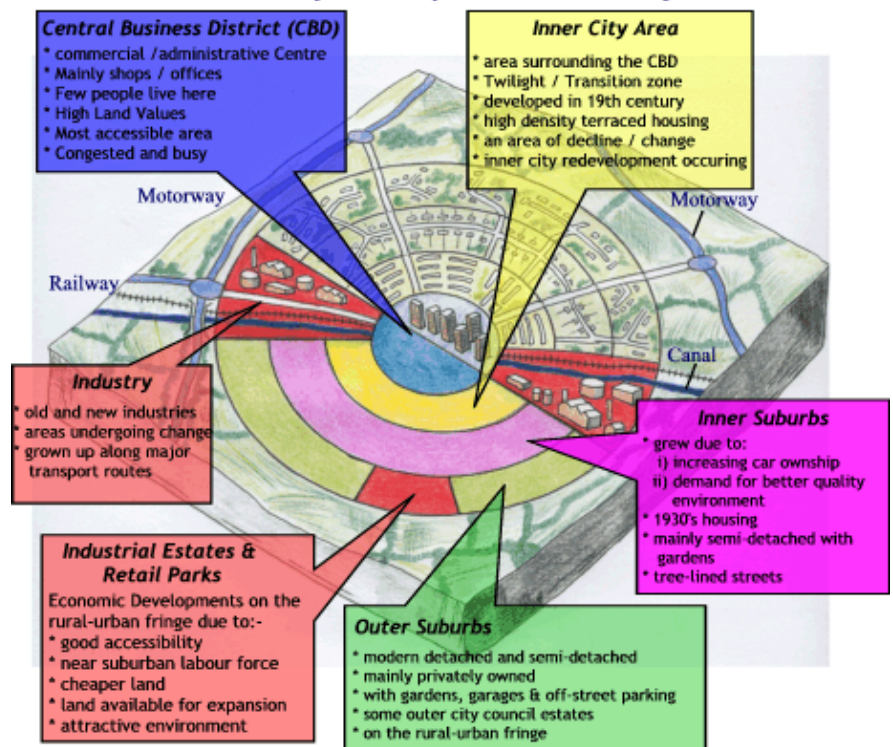
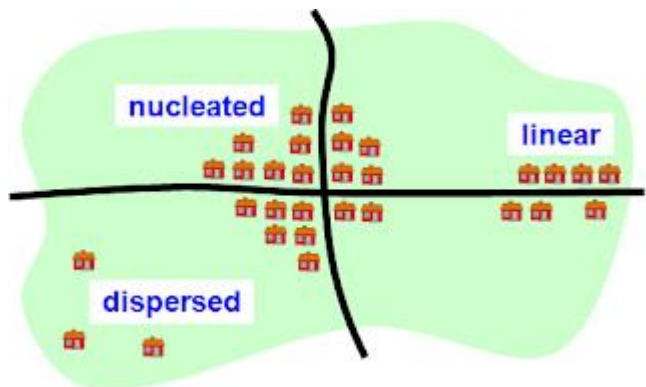


Diagram based on an idea from: The New Wider World (Foundation Edition) Waugh, D. and Bushell, T. (2001)

## Settlement Patterns



## Settlement Hierarchy

