

Unit 7: Settlements

- A settlement is a place where people live.
- It may be as small as a single house or as large as a megacity
- It may be permanent or temporary
- Temporary settlement: refugee camp
- A piece of land where a settlement is built is a settlement site

Good settlement sites:

- Flat land
- fertile land/flood plain
- close to source of water (river)
- national park boundary
- bridging point
- coastal location - good access for trade and communication
- forest - good supply of resources (wood)

Site factors:

- Wet sites: have good water supply.
- Dry sites: away from flooding risks
- Defensive sites: higher ground; in past enemies could be seen from a distance
- Aspect: found on the sunny side of a deep valley e.g. alps

Dispersed settlements: A dispersed settlement refers to the scattering of houses over a large area. This occurs in rural areas, develops in hilly areas, extensive flatlands, or rolling plains.

Linear settlements: A linear settlement pattern refers to the grouping of houses along a line. Tend to follow roads, railway tracks, along the coast or river. Provides a good transport and communication network. Found in rural or urban areas.

Nucleated settlements: A nucleated settlement pattern refers to the grouping of many houses around a center called a nucleus. Developed at road intersections, focal points, of an area or confluences of rivers. Grow in size to form a market town in the rural area. Towns and cities may develop into urban centers and increase in number of functions.

