

ELEMENTS OF SETTLEMENT AND
SPACING AND HIERARCHY OF
SETTLEMENT

The background is a solid blue color. On the right side, there are several white lines of varying lengths and thicknesses, some parallel and some slightly offset, creating a dynamic, geometric pattern that extends from the top right towards the bottom left.

VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF SETTLEMENT:

1. Site: The physical location of a settlement, including topography, climate, and natural resources.
2. Situation: The settlement's relationship with its surroundings, including proximity to resources, transportation routes, and other settlements.
3. Size: The population and physical extent of the settlement.
4. Shape: The settlement's spatial arrangement, including pattern, form, and morphology.
5. Function: The economic, social, and cultural activities that occur within the settlement.
6. Structure: The organization and layout of the settlement, including housing, infrastructure, and services.
7. Growth pattern: The way the settlement has expanded or contracted over time.
8. Density: The number of people per unit area, influencing housing, services, and infrastructure.
9. Hierarchy: The settlement's position within a larger urban or regional system.
10. Network: The connections and relationships between settlements, including transportation, communication, and trade.
11. Amenities: The availability of services, facilities, and attractions within the settlement.
12. Land use: The way land is utilized within the settlement, including residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational areas.

SPACING SETTLEMENT:

The spacing of settlements refers to the distance or separation between individual settlements or communities. The spacing of settlements can vary depending on various factors such as geography, topography, transportation networks, economic activities, and cultural preferences.

- **Clustered Settlements:** In clustered settlements, buildings and structures are grouped closely together. This pattern is often seen in villages, towns, and cities where people live in close proximity to each other for social interaction, security, and shared resources.
- **Linear Settlements:** Linear settlements are arranged in a line or along a linear feature such as a road, river, or railway line. This pattern often develops in areas with limited space or along transportation routes.
- **Dispersed Settlements:** Dispersed settlements are characterized by widely spaced buildings or dwellings with significant distances between them. This pattern is common in rural areas where agricultural activities require larger land areas for farming or grazing.
- **Nucleated Settlements:** Nucleated settlements have a central core or focal point around which buildings are arranged. This pattern is often found in historic towns and cities with a central marketplace or square.
- **Planned Settlements:** Planned settlements are intentionally designed and laid out according to a specific plan or grid pattern. These settlements often have uniform spacing between buildings and well-defined infrastructure.
- **Compact Settlements:** Compact settlements have high population density and minimal spacing between buildings. This pattern is typical in urban areas with limited land availability and high demand for housing.
- **Scattered Settlements:** Scattered settlements are dispersed across a wide area with no clear pattern of spacing or organization. This pattern can be found in remote or rural regions where populations are sparse and resources are distributed unevenly.

INTRODUCTION TO HIERARCHY OF SETTLEMENTS:

- ▶ In human geography, settlement hierarchy refers to the way that settlements are ranked and organized in terms of size and function. Typically, settlements are arranged in a hierarchy from largest to smallest, with the largest settlements at the top and the smallest settlements at the bottom.
- ▶ The highest level of the hierarchy is typically occupied by the capital city of a country, followed by other major cities, and then by smaller towns and rural settlements. Within each level of the hierarchy, settlements are further organized by function, with the most important or central settlements being at the top, and the least important or peripheral settlements at the bottom.
- ▶ For example, within a country's capital city, the central business district and government district would be at the top of the hierarchy, while residential neighborhoods and industrial areas would be at the bottom. Within smaller towns, the main town center and commercial areas would be at the top of the hierarchy, while residential neighborhoods and rural areas would be at the bottom.

WHAT IS HIERARCHY SETTLEMENT?

A settlement hierarchy is when settlements are put in an order and classified based on their size and/or the range of services that they provide for people. The higher up the hierarchy you go, there are fewer settlements but they increase in their size in terms of population and the number of services provided.

LEVELS OF THE HIERARCHY :

Isolated dwelling :

An isolated dwelling is the smallest but most common form of settlement. Found at the base of the settlement hierarchy, the isolated dwelling is a settlement with only a handful of households. Isolated dwellings have little need for services, and at times have none at all.

Hamlet :

The isolated dwelling, the hamlet is a bit larger yet not as common as the former. Although the definition of a hamlet varies per country, in general, hamlets have a population of 100 people or less. Hamlets are usually unincorporated communities found in rural areas or as the component of a municipality or larger settlements. They may also offer only a few basic services.

Village :

Essentially, a village is a hamlet with a few hundred more people and with a larger area. Villages are clustered human settlements or communities often inhabited by a number ranging from a few hundred to a thousand. This larger population permits villages to have basic services such as churches, gas stations, and post offices.

Small town :

Small towns are settlements much larger than villages. It is common for small towns to have populations that fall within the range of 1,000 to 20,000 inhabitants. These settlements are equipped with a number of services sufficient enough to fulfil their inhabitants' basic needs. The people that live in small towns rarely need to leave the settlement to look for other services. Services such as grocers, restaurants, and basic stores can most usually be found in small towns. Around the world, the strict definition of a town according to its size varies from country to country.

Large town:

When a town's population exceeds 20,000 inhabitants, it is considered a large town. In comparison to a small town, a large town's greater number of residents allows it to have a greater variety of services.

City:

A city is a large and permanent human settlement. Cities do not have a minimum size nor population, however, they usually have around 100,000–300,000 inhabitants. Cities are governed by a major, and more often than not, a majority of the important administrative offices can be found in cities.

Conurbation :

A conurbation is a collection of two or more large cities and their suburbs. The cities that belong to conurbations are strongly related to one another. Conurbations commonly have populations of 1–3 million people. Major examples of conurbations are found in the Low Countries, Great Britain, Germany, and Japan.

