

Settlements in Wales

How can we describe settlements?

area

site

population



shape

situation

function

Where were settlements built and why?

Site: describes the actual land upon which a settlement is built.
Physical factors were most important in the initial choice of a site.



fuel

shelter

water supply

protection from the enemy

fertile soil

building materials

Can you think of any more factors?

Settlement sites

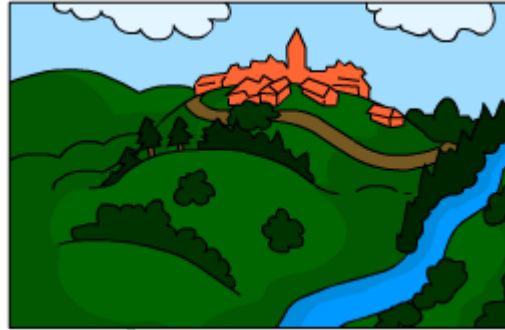
Some settlement sites had specific advantages

bridging point



Where a river was shallow enough to be crossed (a ford) or narrow enough to easily build a bridge (e.g. Oxford).

dry-point



In especially wet areas, settlements were built on slightly raised land to avoid flooding or the unhealthy marshland (e.g. Ely in Cambridgeshire).

nodal point

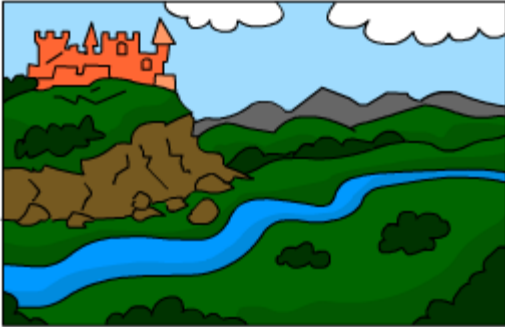


Where natural routes meet, such as several valleys (e.g. York) or at the confluence of two rivers (e.g. St Louis on the Mississippi).

Settlement sites

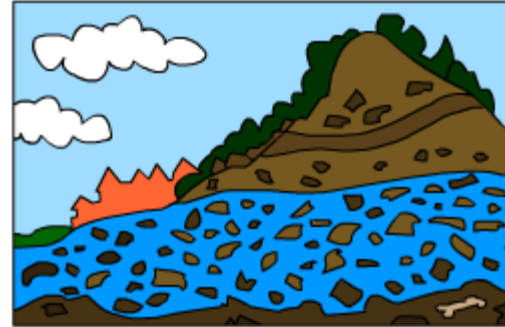
Some settlement sites had specific advantages.

defensive



In order to protect themselves from attack, settlements were built within a river meander, with the river giving protection on three sides, e.g. Shrewsbury, or on a hill with good views, e.g. Edinburgh.

wet-point



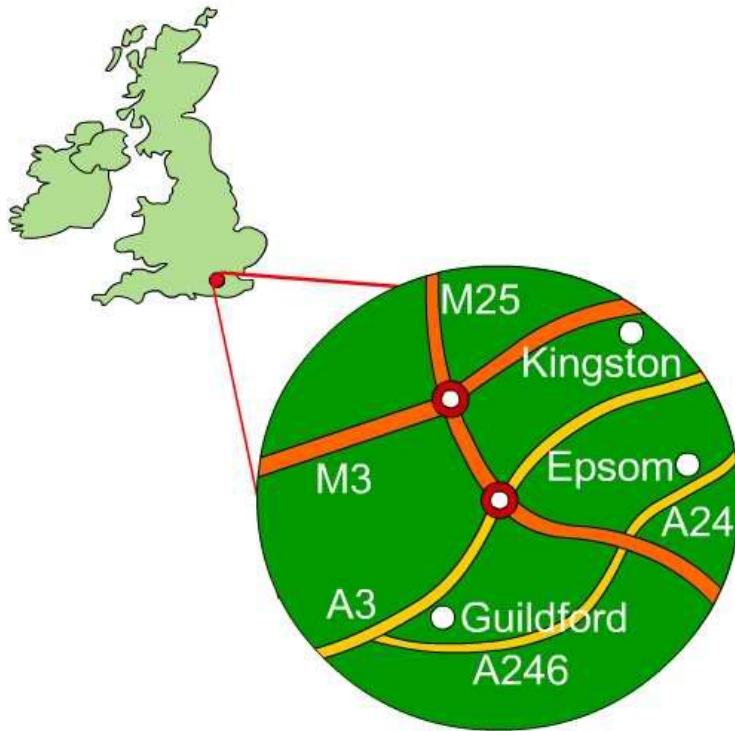
These settlements were built at a source of water in an otherwise dry area. For example, in lowland Britain, many settlements were built at springs at the foot of chalk escarpments, e.g. Kemsingat near the North Downs.

Settlements over time



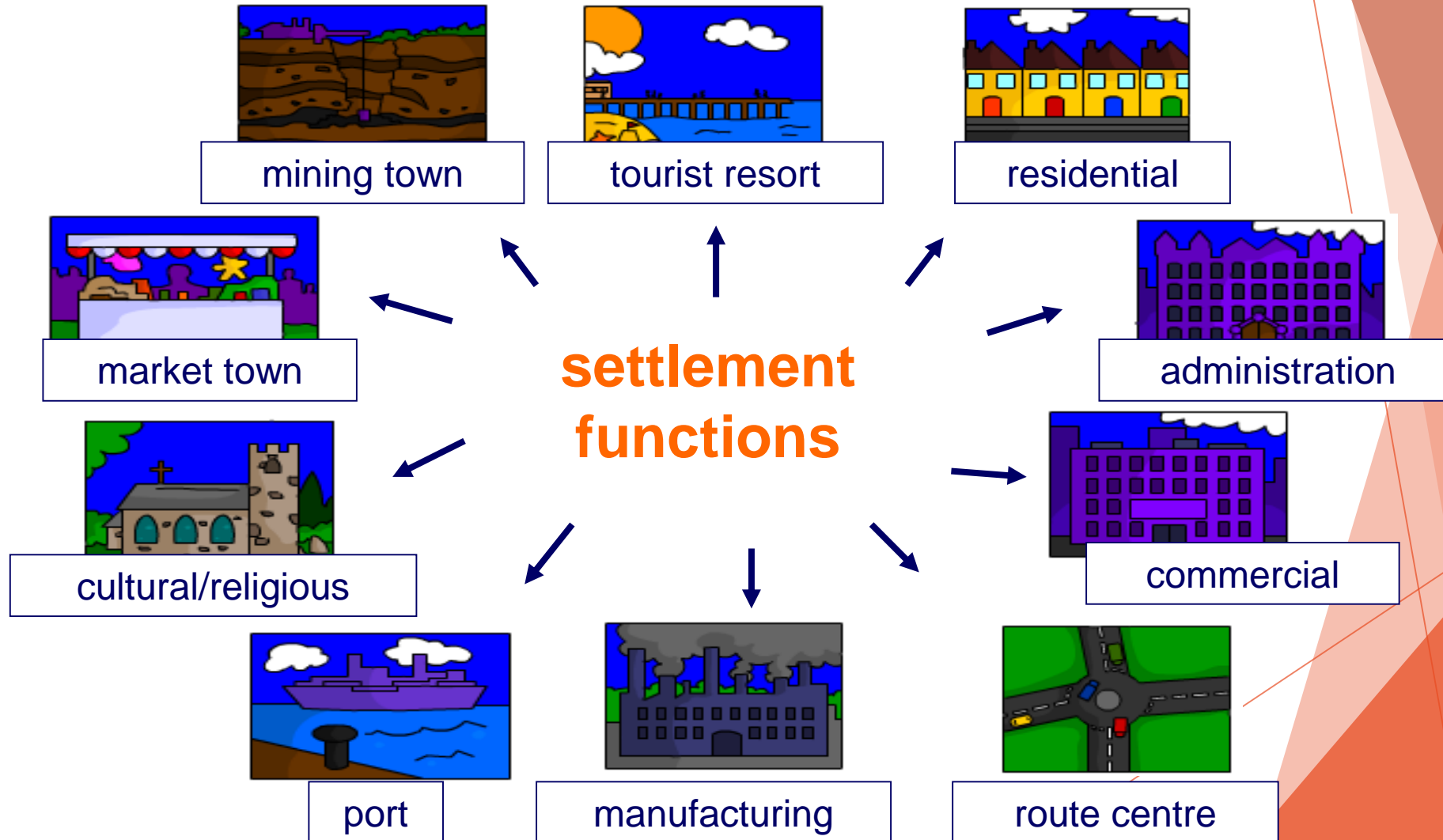
What is the situation of a settlement?

Situation: describes where a settlement is located in relation to other surrounding features such as other settlements, rivers and communications.



What is the function of a settlement?

The **function** of a settlement relates to its economic and social development and refers to its main activities.



Types of function



Description	Type of Function	British Example
Developed to exploit local rocks or minerals	<input type="text"/>	
Where people and goods enter or leave a country	<input type="text"/>	
Includes seaside towns and mountain resorts	<input type="text"/>	
The main focus of a farming area to allow for sales and collections	<input type="text"/>	
Where the majority of people live but do not work	<input type="text"/>	
Where raw materials are processed into products	<input type="text"/>	

mining town



solve



Settlement Functions



Can you find ten settlement functions?

A	D	M	I	N	I	S	T	R	A	T	I	V	E	M	T
N	V	T	D	T	V	Z	G	X	A	A	K	O	S	W	O
C	F	B	G	N	I	R	U	T	C	A	F	U	N	A	M
R	O	U	T	E	C	E	N	T	R	E	G	R	D	V	I
L	L	H	R	H	V	K	W	T	K	A	S	Y	L	M	N
A	C	Q	M	L	V	D	T	K	Z	Y	N	Q	E	K	I
R	A	T	R	O	P	J	Y	N	V	N	S	Y	N	B	N
U	D	E	G	A	D	H	Q	R	V	R	F	F	H	X	G
T	F	K	T	O	U	R	I	S	T	R	E	S	O	R	T
L	N	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T	I	A	L	M	P	P
U	C	A	F	X	M	Y	K	F	D	Y	U	L	R	Q	C
C	O	M	M	E	R	C	I	A	L	X	Y	W	Q	Y	K



solve

show

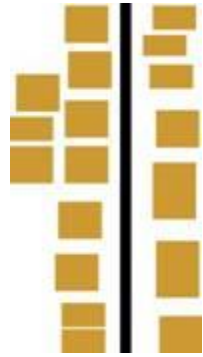


How is the shape of a settlement classified?

- Dispersed
- Nucleated or Compact
- Planned
- Linear or Street
- Ring or Green
- Cross

How is the shape of a settlement classified?

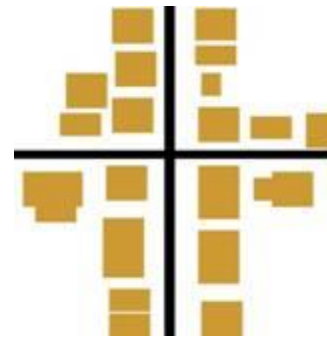
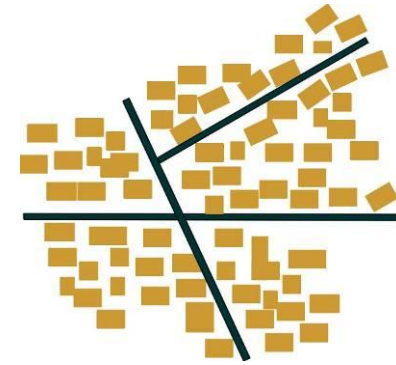
Linear



Dispersed



Nucleated



Cross

Test your knowledge



Link the matching settlement characteristics

a source of water in an otherwise dry area

an easy place to cross a river

where several valleys meet

where several buildings are grouped together

in a meander bend or high up

buildings strung out along a line of communication

nucleated

nodal point

defensive

wet-point

bridging point

linear

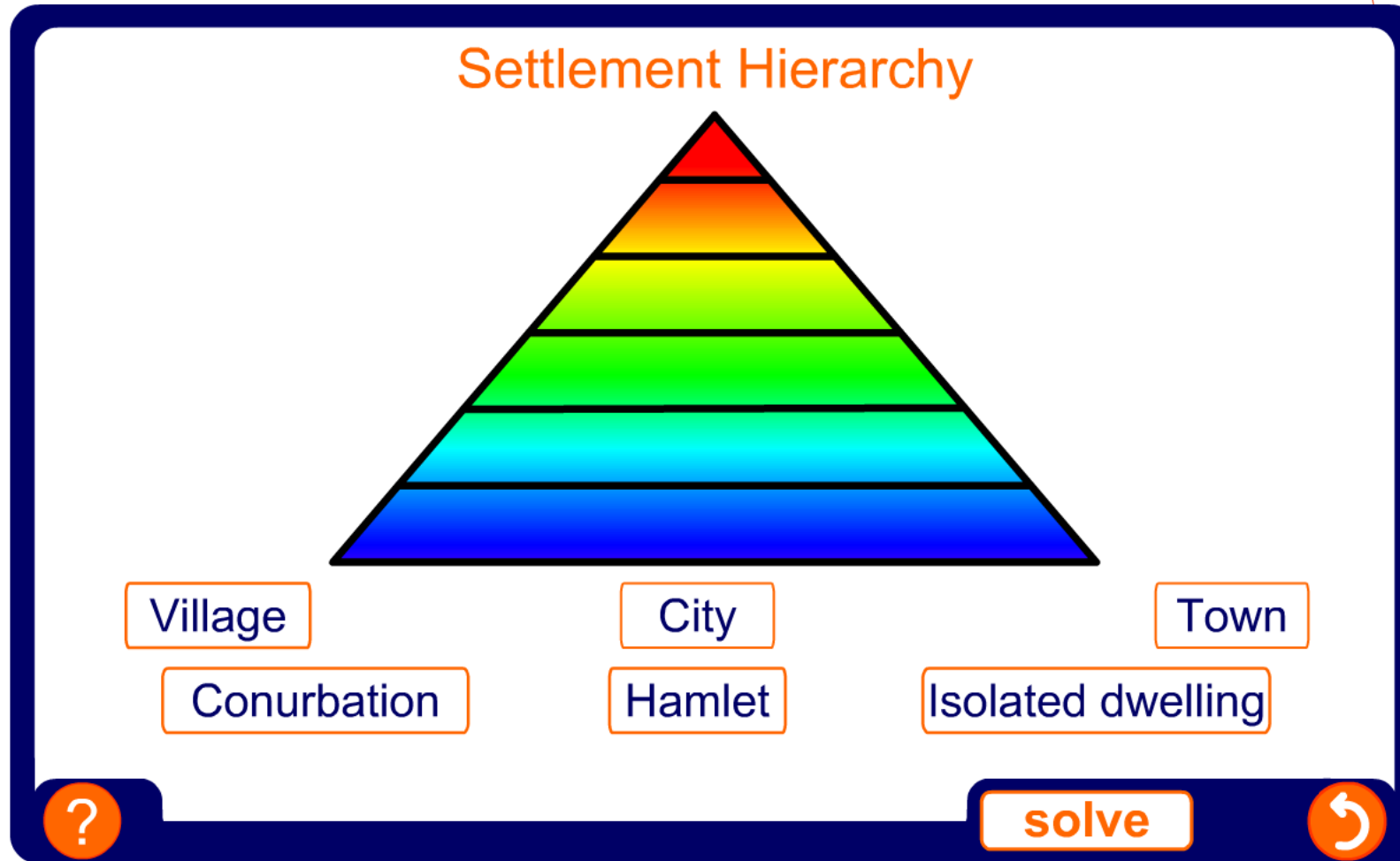


solve



What is a settlement hierarchy?

A **settlement hierarchy** is the arrangement of settlements in an **order of importance**.

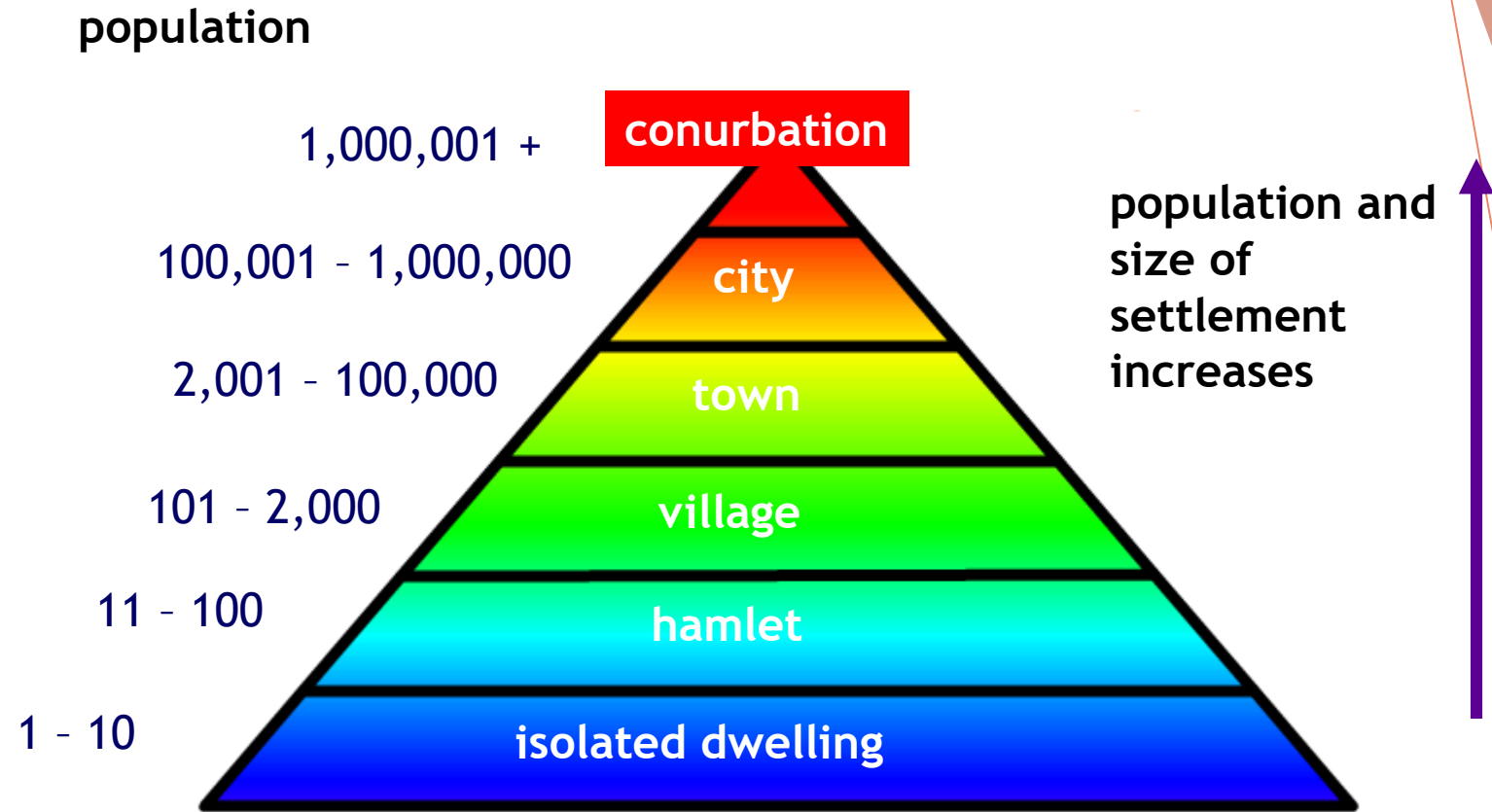


What is the settlement hierarchy based upon?

The order of settlements within the settlement hierarchy is usually based on one of the following:

- **the size of the settlement in terms of its area and population**
- the range and number of **services/functions** within each settlement
- the relative **sphere of influence** of each settlement

Settlement hierarchy



Why is the hierarchy drawn as a triangle with a wide base and a narrow point?

Key ideas

Site

- describes the actual land upon which a settlement is built.
- **Physical factors** were most important in the initial choice of a site.
- **Technology** means that many site factors are no longer very critical in influencing the site of a settlement.

Situation

- describes where a settlement is located in relation to other surrounding features such as other settlements, rivers and communications.

Function

- relates to the economic and social development of a settlement and refers to its main activities. Most settlements are **multi-functional**. In addition, most settlements have had a **change** in function from their original one.