Land Use

What are the important features of a settlement, and why do settlers choose specific places?

What facilities are in my local area, and how do people travel there?

Key question we will answer:

What are the types of land use?

Key geographical knowledge we will use: Locational Knowledge, Place Knowledge and Human Geography

Key geographical concepts we will use: Place, Space, Scale, Interdependence and Human Processes

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What are the important features of a settlement, and why do settlers choose specific places?

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Key question we will answer:

How can I record the facilities that are available in my local area?

Key geographical knowledge we will use: Locational Knowledge, Place Knowledge, Human Geography, Geography Skills and Fieldwork

Key geographical concepts we will use: Place, Space, Scale, Interdependence and Human Processes

Key question we will answer:

How can I present and analyse information about local facilities?

Key geographical knowledge we will use: Locational Knowledge, Place Knowledge, Human Geography, Geography Skills and Fieldwork

Key geographical concepts we will use: Place, Space, Scale, Interdependence and Human Processes

Key vocabulary for this lesson:

hamlet – a settlement with a small group of houses and no other buildings

land use – how land is used by people, including housing

rural – relating to the countryside

settlement – a place where people live which can be categorised into hamlets, villages, towns and cities

site – the location of where a settlement is located

situation – this describes where the settlement is in relation to other settlements and the features of the surrounding area

urban – relating to a town or city

Land uses

Hi! My name is **Warwick**. I am an **architect**. I **design** homes and buildings to be functional, safe and sustainable.

Statistics show that in England, **70%** of the land is used for **agriculture**, **15%** is **natural (unused)**, **10%** is built up for **residential, commercial, recreational or industrial purposes**, and **5%** is used for **green spaces**.

Hi! My name is **Rina**. I am a **planetary scientist**. I work to improve our understanding of the **solar system's planets, satellites and smaller bodies.**

This is what the **United Kingdom** looks like at night from space.

What do the **lights** suggest about the **different settlements** there?

Discuss this question with your learning partner, and be ready to **share your feedback** with the class before the **answer is revealed**.

As you can see from the photograph, there are **areas with a large concentration of light**. These are the **highly populated major cities** across the UK (urban areas).

Many of these **urban areas** are located **near the coast**, which would have been historically for **trading purposes**.

The areas with **less light** suggest that these are more **suburban and rural** areas like **towns, villages and hamlets**.

Hi! My name is Cian. I am an archaeologist. I use artefacts and geographical features to learn how people lived in specific times and places. A long time ago, humans moved from place to place much more often than today, so settlements were temporary bases. As humans advanced and developed the ability to farm, they needed to construct more permanent settlements. Before deciding where to settle, they would have looked for land with important physical characteristics.

What do you think these important physical characteristics may have been?

Discuss this question with your learning partner. Be ready to share your feedback with the class before the answers are revealed.

Settlements through time

People needed access to **fresh water** to drink, farm, and wash. Many settlements were built **near lakes or rivers** for this reason. They would also need access to a **food source**. This could have been near where **wild animals** lived or **plants and trees** that could also provide food. The land needed to be suitable for **farming**, meaning it must be **flat, open** and **unlikely to flood**.

They also needed access to **raw materials** such as **wood and stone** for building and wood and coal for fires. Hills and mountains could shelter settlements from strong winds and rains, so many were built on the **lower ground** around them. Settlements were sometimes built on slightly **higher ground** for **defence from enemies**.

What do settlers consider?

When considering **settling in a location**, we can split **people's requirements** into **essential and desirable**.

Essential	Desirable
shelter	farmland
food	transport links
water	entertainment
fuel	green space
safety	neighbours
materials	shops
power supply	education
	healthcare

Urban change

Some urban areas across the UK have become **run down** as towns and cities have grown. This is often seen in more **inner-city areas**, and the **biggest issues include**:

- **overcrowding**

- **poor-quality housing**

- **traffic congestion**

- **lack of open space**

As a result, some people and industries have decided to move out of **central areas**, choosing the city's edge as a more **desirable area to live and work**. This is known as **urban sprawl**, where people have spread out from the city centre area for a better **quality of life**.

Re-urbanisation

Despite this, many people still move into **inner city areas**, and these remain very **popular places to live** for **several reasons, including**:

- access to various transport links
- close to shops, cafes, pubs and restaurants
- selection of entertainment
- wide range of job opportunities
- local schools, colleges and universities
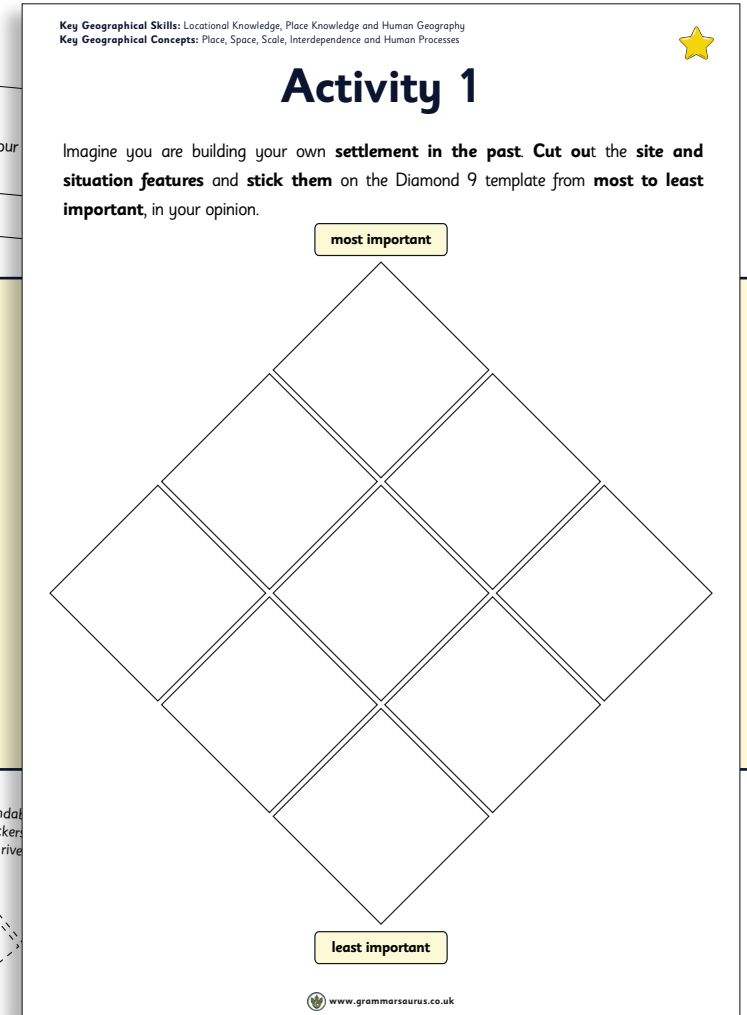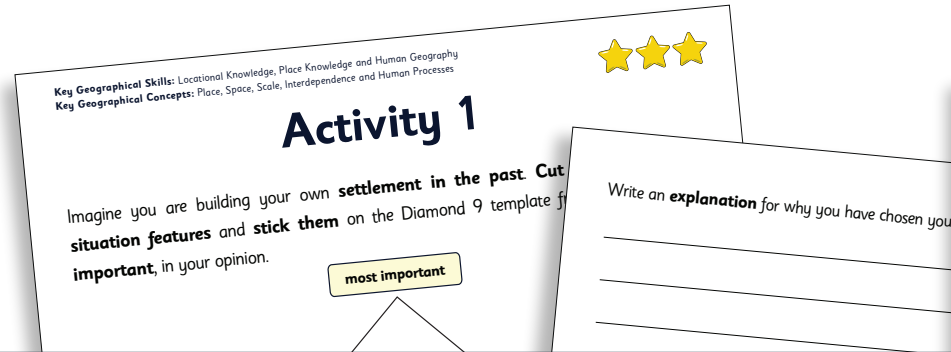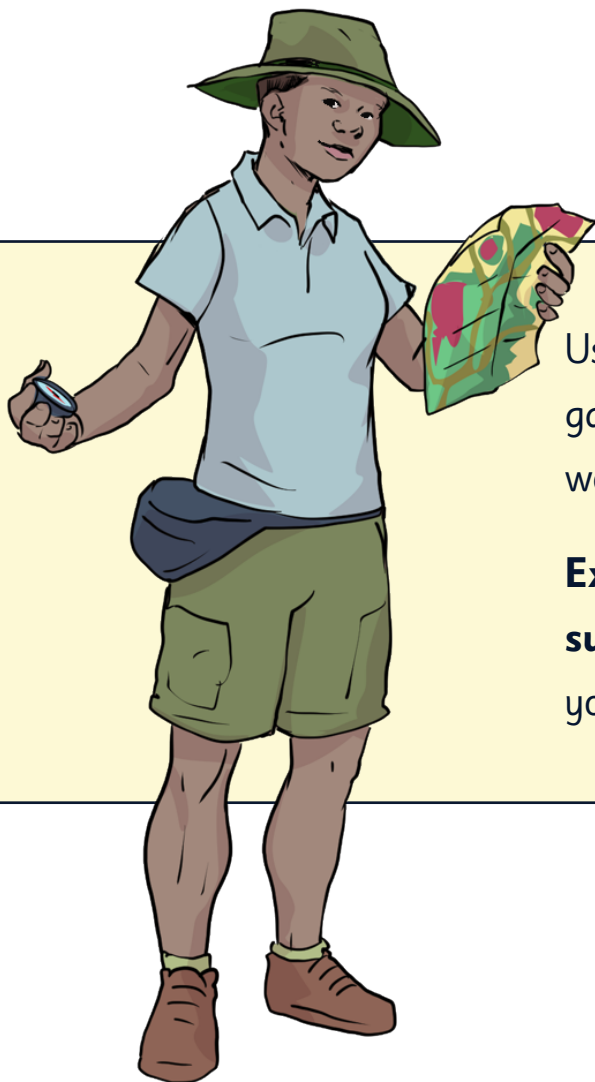
This is called **re-urbanisation.**

Activity 1

Imagine you are living in the past, and you are building your own **settlement**.

Use the **Diamond 9 template** on your activity 1 worksheet to **rank the site and situation features** from **most to least important** in your opinion.

Key Geographical Skills: Locational Knowledge, Place Knowledge and Human Geography
Key Geographical Concepts: Place, Space, Scale, Interdependence and Human Processes

Activity 1

Imagine you are building your own **settlement in the past**. Cut out the **site and situation features** and **stick them** on the Diamond 9 template from **most to least important**, in your opinion.

most important

Write an **explanation** for why you have chosen your

Activity 1

Imagine you are building your own **settlement in the past**. **Cut out** the **site and situation features** and **stick them** on the Diamond 9 template from **most to least important**, in your opinion.

most important

least important

raw materials for building, e.g., wood, stone

defendab attackers rive

transport links, e.g., crossing point of the river
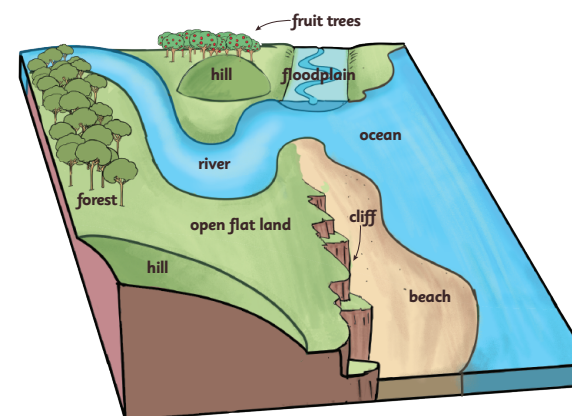
least import

Challenge

Use the knowledge you have gained to decide **where** you would **build your settlement**.

Explain how you would use the **surroundings** to survive on your challenge worksheet.

Challenge

1. Look at the **features** on the map.
2. Draw an **X** where you would build your **settlement**.
3. Write why you have chosen this **location** and what changes you would make to the **environment** when building your settlement.

fruit trees
hill
floodplain
ocean
river
forest
open flat land
cliff
hill
beach

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