

SETTLEMENTS

A **settlement** is a permanent or temporary community in which people live. Settlements also refer to the physical spaces and environments in which households are sheltered. Their development depend on variety of factors such as physical, socio-economic, historic and cultural features. First relatively permanent settlements appeared about 5000 BC due to domesticating animals and raising plants in the region of Tigris-Euphrates Valley and The East Mediterranean.

The two main **types of settlements** are rural and urban. The **rural** settlement is where population settle on land outside of cities and towns and it is mostly dependent on agricultural practices, and has fewer community infrastructure systems. They may be classified in terms of their geographical position, the number of population, population density and other characteristics as well.

The majority of the world's population now live in **urban** centres. Urban settlements are also classified based on their functions, pattern, etc. Most of them are multifunctional and perform a range of functions such as industry, services and government. When cities and towns first started to grow, most had only one distinct function, and others developed as the settlement grew.

Urbanisation is defined as the proportion of the total population living in areas classed as urban. It reflects growth of the economy, increasing number of migrations from rural to urban regions, from employment in agricultural to industry or services. As a result, the number of big cities and their influence expand. Urbanisation is associated with better standards of living, such as higher life expectancy and level of literacy, better services, employment etc.

There are five main **stages in urbanisation**. Supported by the large farming surpluses first urban settlements emerged in the Ancient period in the Middle East and later in different regions around the world. The expansion of trade, Industrial revolution, development of transportation system and new methods of production of goods led to acceleration of the urbanisation during that second period. The proportion of population in cities increased greatly and extremely big integrated cities, called **agglomerations**, appeared during the next stage. As larger and larger industrial cities spread outward, they include surrounding suburbs, which are lands outside the city limits, usually with a separate governance. While some suburbs become distinct cities, other maintain strong relationships to their "parent" city. As they offered better life, suburbs attracted many people. At some point, suburban areas grew in magnitude and influence. **Suburbanisation** describes the general trend of city dwellers to move away from the city's core into residential areas in concentric circles.

The vast urban complex created as suburbs continued to grow and merge with other suburbs and metropolitan areas is known as a **megalopolis**. Although cities are engine for economic growth, they also face a wide range of problems, like crime, traffic congestion, pollution and various social inequalities. To escape these problems, some people have chosen to move to rural areas which is named **reurbanisation**. The shift towards post-industrial economies and the rapid pace of change for information technologies caused recent changes of urbanisation. During that contemporary stage the focus of global urbanisation patterns will continue to shift towards developing countries.

VOCABULARY

settlement ['set.əl.mənt] – селище

rural ['rʊə.rəl] – село

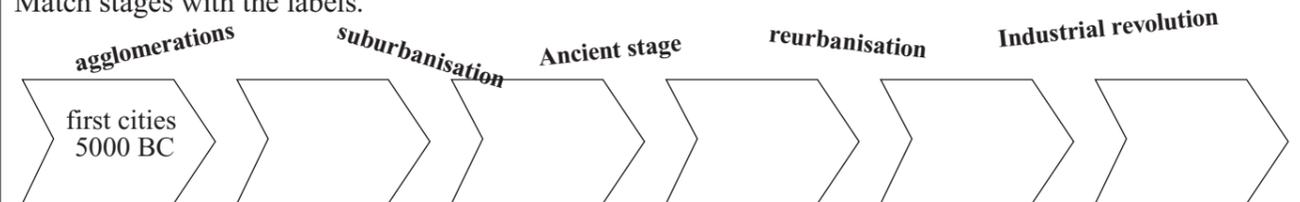
urban ['z:.bən] – град

agglomeration [ə,glɒm.ə'reɪ.ʃən] – агломерация

PRACTICE:

1. Use the terms listed in the glossary in sentences.

2. Timeline: Use the text and fill in the stages of urbanisation. Match stages with the labels.



2. Match the Settlement Types based on its population density with the definition and add to each one of the following examples: hamlet, town, farms, agglomeration, city, megalopolis.

A. Compact or nucleated	1. farmers do not live in a clustered area with the farmland outside the village, they actually live in houses on their farm, placing them near livestock	
B. Semi-Compact	2. They have homes stacked together, often touching at the sides or stacked in multi-family buildings.	
C. Dispersed	3. The houses still have a good amount of space between the homes, but they are clustered in a definitive boundary	

3. Read the text. Put the name of the megalopolis on the map. Write down the names of the countries.
"Of the 29 megacities in 2015, Tokyo was the world's largest city, its agglomeration numbered 38.0 million inhabitants. It was followed by Delhi with 25.7 million, Shanghai with 23.7 million, Mexico City, Mumbai and São Paulo each with around 21 million, and Beijing and Osaka each with just over 20 million inhabitants. The populations of Paris and London were — in global terms — relatively small, as each had less than 11 million inhabitants. There were two other European cities in the ranking, Istanbul (14.2million inhabitants) and Moscow (12.2 million inhabitants)." Eurostat, 2015



4. Find information about the percentage of urban population by continents and put in colours the map.