Geography – Settlements – Year 4

Vocabulary Top Ten:

agriculture	farming including the growing of crops and the rearing of animals
civilisation	the society, culture, and way of life of a particular area
desirable	not necessary but would be useful
essential	absolutely necessary e.g. food, water and shelter
industry	economic activity related to the processing of raw materials and manufacture of goods in factories
leisure	time when people are not working
market town	a town that has a regular market for local farmers to sell their produce at
retail	the sale of goods to the public in relatively small quantities for use or consumption rather than for resale e.g. shops
settlements	places where people live and sometimes work, they can be small or large
town	larger than a village and smaller than a city

Land use:

There are different types of land use such as **agriculture**, **housing**, **industrial**, **business**, **leisure** and **retail**.

Types of Settlement

A **hamlet** is a very small settlement with just a group of houses.
A **village** is also small but may have houses, a primary school, a few shops, a Post Office and a village hall.
A **town** is larger than a village, with lots of houses, primary and secondary schools, as well as sometimes having a railway station and shopping centre.
A **city** is the largest type of settlement, containing lots of buildings and lots of people. They usually have hospitals, sports facilities, universities, shops, offices, many houses and a cathedral.

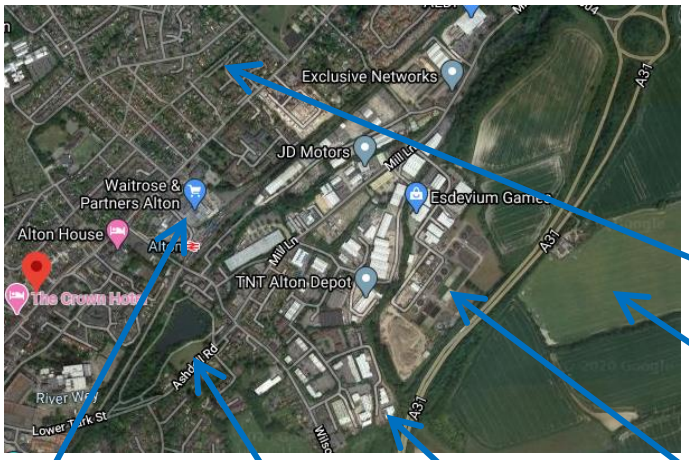
Settlers would decide where to settle depending on different criteria which may be **essential** or **desirable**.

Alton

Alton is a market town in Hampshire, England.

Land use:

Alton has businesses in the retail and service sectors in the centre of the town, and over a hundred businesses in the four industrial areas.



The Maya

The Maya made their home in northern **Central America**. Today, this region falls into modern day southern Mexico, most of Guatemala, all of Belize, the northern tip of Honduras, and a northeast piece of El Salvador.





The geography varies greatly in different parts of this region of the world. You can find dry and arid land, rainforests, swamps, and coastal areas. Earthquakes were frequent and there was flooding, mudslides, hurricanes and droughts. The Maya invented many things to overcome the various problems their geography and climate created.

- they cleared large sections of the rainforest to build underground reservoirs for fresh water storage
- the cities acted as city-states where each single large city ruled over the surrounding areas
- cities tended to grow out from the centre over time
- typically cities were located near trade routes and good farmland

Tikal became one of the most powerful city-states in the history of the Maya civilization during the Classic period of Maya History.