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FREE LEARNING NOTES FOR ZAMBIA

FORM 1 · TERM 3

Geography

Location of Settlements

Lesson notes for learners · Competence-Based Curriculum

INSIDE

1. Factors that influence the location of settlements
2. Functions of settlements
3. Choosing a place to live
4. Check yourself

The location of settlements is an important part of the study of how people adapt to their surroundings. It influences the development, growth and sustainability of communities. Settlements have been established in various places because of factors such as access to water, fertility of the soils, natural resources, transportation and defence. In this note you will study the factors that influence where settlements are found, the functions that settlements perform, and how a person can choose a place to live that suits their needs and lifestyle.

AFTER THESE NOTES YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO

- Identify the factors that influence the location of settlements
- Describe the functions of different settlements, such as administrative and commercial functions
- Choose a place to live and justify the choice using personal, environmental, social and economic factors

KEY WORDS

Settlement	A place where people live, such as a village, town or city.
Relief	The shape and height of the land, for example gently sloping land, low lying land or mountains.
Function	The work or service that a settlement does for its people and for other places.
Amenities	Services and facilities such as shopping malls, recreation and entertainment.
Sparsely populated	Having few people living in an area.

1 Factors that influence the location of settlements

People do not settle just anywhere. The location of settlements is influenced by a number of factors. These include relief, water, climate, soils, security, tradition or ethnicity, transport, economic factors and government policies.

Relief: gently sloping and low lying areas attract settlement, unlike mountainous and hilly areas. Climate: areas with moderate rainfall and temperatures attract more people than hot and dry places. Water: people settle near water bodies for both domestic and industrial use.

Soils: areas with fertile soils, such as those along the line of rail, attract settlements. Areas with poor and infertile soils, such as the Luangwa and Gwembe valleys, are sparsely populated. Areas infested with tsetse flies, such as national parks, and swampy areas where mosquitoes breed are also sparsely populated.

Tradition or ethnicity: people with strong social traditions tend to live together, for example people of the same clan tend to be found in specific settlements. Economic factors: people usually settle in areas that are economically developed, such as urban areas, because they provide employment opportunities and improved social services like schools, hospitals, transport and recreation. Government policies: the government, through its policies, may decide where people should settle.

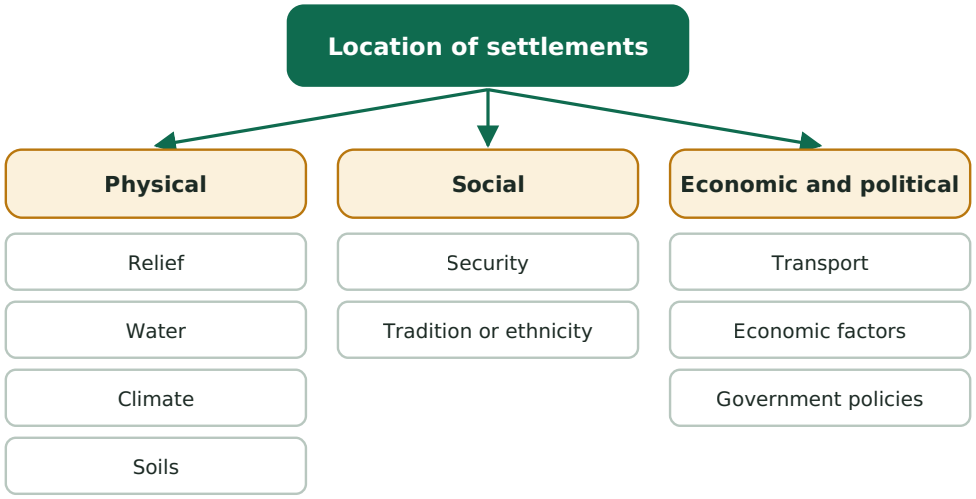

Figure 1. Factors that influence the location of settlements

2 Functions of settlements

Settlements perform different functions. A function is the work or service that a settlement does. One settlement may perform several functions at the same time.

The functions are: production, which provides a location for economic activities such as agriculture, manufacturing and processing services; distribution, where a settlement serves as a centre for the distribution of goods and services; residential, which provides a place for people to live and raise their families; and cultural preservation, which preserves and promotes cultural heritage and traditions.

The other functions are: governance, where a settlement serves as a centre of government and administration; social services, which offer services including education, healthcare and law enforcement; infrastructure, which provides essential infrastructure such as roads, utilities and public services; resource management, which manages and uses natural

resources such as water, land and minerals; waste management, which handles waste disposal and management; and conservation services, which can promote conservation and sustainability practices.

Function	What the settlement does
Production	Provides a location for agriculture, manufacturing and processing services
Distribution	Serves as a centre for distributing goods and services
Residential	Provides a place for people to live and raise families
Governance	Serves as a centre of government and administration
Social services	Offers education, healthcare and law enforcement
Waste management	Handles waste disposal and management

Figure 2. Functions of settlements

3 Choosing a place to live

A person can choose a place to live that matches their needs and lifestyle. Things to consider include proximity to school or work, availability of resources such as water and food, transport options, safety and amenities.

Personal factors include age and family needs, such as school and healthcare. Lifestyle, hobbies and interests matter too, for example being close to outdoor space, cultural events or entertainment. Health and wellness means access to healthcare, fitness facilities and healthy living.

Environmental factors include climate, availability of natural resources, terrain and natural features such as mountains, rivers, lakes or forests. Pollution refers to the level of noise, land and air pollution in an area, for example near highways, airports and industrial sites. Natural disasters refers to the risk of floods or drought in the area.

Social factors are community, cultural and social connections. Safety and security means the crime rate, safety features and emergency services. Economic factors are the cost of living, including housing, food, transportation and healthcare. Job opportunities and career growth include the local job market and access to education and training. Access to amenities includes shopping malls, recreation and entertainment.

TRY THIS

Choose a place where you would like to live when you are an adult. In your exercise book, write five sentences giving reasons for your choice. Use at least three factors from this note, for example safety, water, job opportunities or access to a clinic. Then say one factor that could make the place a poor choice for someone else.

REMEMBER

- The location of settlements is influenced by relief, water, climate, soils, security, tradition or ethnicity, transport, economic factors and government policies
- Gently sloping and low lying land, moderate rainfall and temperatures, nearby water and fertile soils attract settlement
- Areas with poor soils, tsetse flies or swamps where mosquitoes breed are sparsely populated
- Settlements perform functions such as production, distribution, residential, governance, social services and waste management
- A place to live can be chosen by considering personal, environmental, social and economic factors

? Check yourself

1. State four factors that influence the location of settlements.
2. Why are the Luangwa and Gwembe valleys sparsely populated according to this note?
3. Name two functions of settlements and say what each means.
4. What is meant by the residential function of a settlement?
5. Name three things a person should consider before choosing a place to live.
6. A family wants to move to a new area. One area is hilly and hot and dry, with no river nearby. Another is gently sloping, has moderate rainfall and is close to a river. (a) Say which area is more likely to attract settlement. (b) Give two reasons from the note. (c) Name one more factor the family sh
7. A young teacher is offered work in two places. In one place there is a clinic, a school, a market and a bus route. In the other place the nearest clinic is far away and the road is poor. (a) Name two amenities or services that make the first place attractive. (b) Name the factor that shows the secon

ANSWERS

1. Any four of: relief, water, climate, soils, security, tradition or ethnicity, transport, economic factors, government policies.
2. They have poor and infertile soils.
3. For example governance, which means serving as a centre of government and administration, and social services, which means offering education, healthcare and law enforcement.
4. It provides a place for people to live and raise their families.
5. Any three of: proximity to school or work, water and food, transport options, safety, amenities, cost of living, job opportunities, risk of floods or drought.
6. (a) The gently sloping area near the river. (b) Gently sloping land attracts settlement, moderate rainfall and temperatures attract more people than hot and dry places, and people settle near water. (c) For example safety, transport or job opportunities.
7. (a) The clinic and the school, or the market and the bus route. (b) Poor transport and access to healthcare. (c) Social services.

Written by 25Schools to follow the Form 1 Geography syllabus of the Zambian competence-based curriculum. Free for learners to read, download and share. More notes and quizzes at 25schools.com.