

Why do People Settle in Certain Areas?

There are very important reasons why people throughout history have chosen to live where they do. If we look at maps of different places in the world, we will notice that most large communities and cities are located on, or near the water. Let's look some maps of two countries where there were early **civilizations**, and see if this is true.

Civilizations: groups of people living in a certain area who have improved their way of life over time.



The map above is a map of China. As you can see, most of the cities are along rivers, or near the coast of the ocean. On the map of Egypt below, you will notice the same thing. We will learn the reasons for this, as we discover where people settle and live, and why.



Around 5000 years ago, the first civilizations began to pop up along the southwest part of the continent of Asia. Today, this is an area we call the Middle East. Towns began to develop along **river valleys**, where water was available. There were some important reasons for this.

River valleys: low lying areas of land that surround a river and are good for farming



The land along the rivers is **fertile**. If there is fertile land, then crops can be grown. Animals can also be raised if there is enough food and water for them. People learned that they could stay in one place and grow enough food to feed their community, if they were near a water supply.

Fertile: able to grow plants because of nearby water supply



As time went on, waterways began to serve more purposes. Rivers, lakes, and seas began to be used for transportation. People built boats, and started exploring the area around them.



People began to build their homes where they could be close to food and supplies. Larger towns and cities began to spring up along trade routes. Let's stop for a minute, and think about the locations of some of the major cities, here in the United States. These cities have one thing in common. They are all near water. We will also learn why these locations were important to the growth and development of America.



Many of the oldest and largest cities in America are located along the Atlantic Ocean, or on harbors that join the ocean. For example, New York, Boston and Baltimore all have harbors. When the United States was being settled, these locations were very important trade centers. These cities have large ports where ships can load and unload their goods. From these ports, goods can then move to other locations by land or river. Trade and shipping are very important to the development of towns and cities. Shipping creates jobs, and communities develop around these locations.

Early European Settlements



Take a look at the settlement locations on the map above. Use what you have learned about why people settle where they do and explain what is located near these settlements that would explain why these were located where they are.



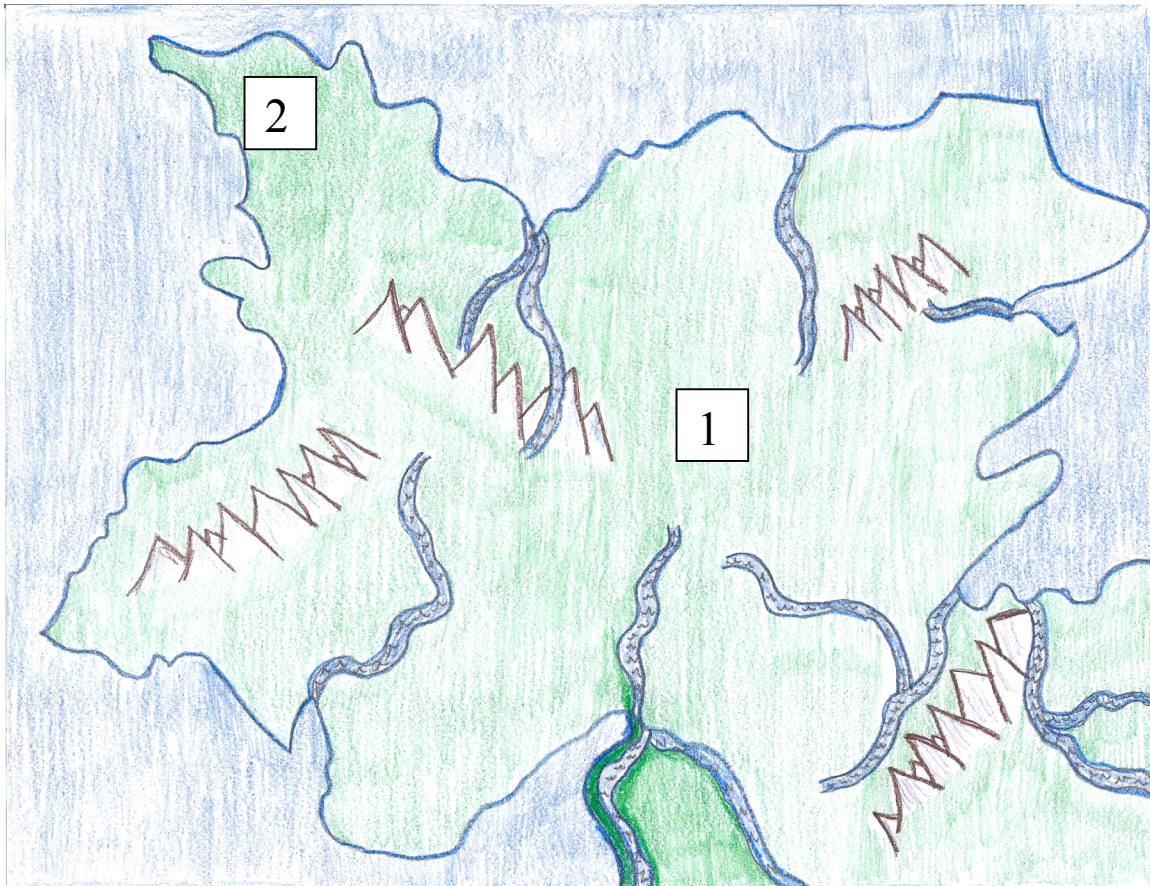
When at all possible, people chose to settle near the water and mountains. Mountains provided protection from possible attack from invaders. Mountains also provided protection from weather elements. Soil around the base of mountains was often very fertile.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT:

Go back to my website and pull the image of Spires Continent into a Pages Document or another word processing document (if you are doing this from home). P

Place the image behind the text and choose five locations for settlements on Spires Continent. Place a textbox with the numbers 1,2,3,4 and 5 in the locations for the first through fifth place you would locate your settlements. Justify what makes the locations the best for settlement in your reasoning for choosing your locations.

See example below (note – this is an example, I am not choosing a location or giving an explanation that makes sense in relation that what we have learned in class) this is only an example! My examples are NOT good examples.



I would choose location #1 for one of my settlements because it is centrally located between four river systems...(you would go into much deeper details with your explanation).

I would choose location #2 for my second location for a settlement because it is the Northern most point on the Continent...

After you have placed and explained your five locations. Save the file and upload to the Human Settlement assignment under Social Studies on my website.