

Primary Geography: Explain this...

Cities, towns and villages

Human beings have developed all sorts of settlements or communities. Some big, some small, some close together and some far apart.

Pretty much every settlement, no matter how extraordinary or ordinary it is, can be classified as a city, a town or a village.

But what makes these places different?

This is Ava. She's going to help us discover more about villages.

Villages are small settlements with a small number of houses for a few hundred people. Most villages are found in the countryside and may be surrounded by farms where food is produced and sold to people in towns and cities. Some villages have a few shops. And there may be a place of worship, like a church. And there's usually a school.

Thanks, Ava. It was great exploring Saintfield with you!

This is Sam and he's in a town. Hi Sam!

A town is a larger settlement than a village. More people live in a town - normally a couple of thousand - so they need more homes and more shops. You might even find some leisure facilities. And often a town hall. There are places of worship and of course, towns have schools too.

Thanks Sam for helping us explore Bangor!

Now, to our biggest settlement - a city. And here's Isabel to help us with this one. Hi Isabel!

Cities are the largest kind of settlements and often have millions of people living in them. All those people have to live somewhere so you'll find lots of different kinds of homes. Some people live in houses, others in flats or apartments. Cities usually have a lot to offer: shops, leisure facilities, restaurants, cinemas, museums, places of worship, many have a cathedral like this one. And of course, you're never far from a school in a city.

Thanks Isabel for showing us around Belfast!

It's not just the people that live in cities, towns or villages that get to enjoy what each place has to offer. Roads, railways and pathways connect them all, so people from villages can easily get to a city to shop and people who live in towns can easily get out to the countryside.