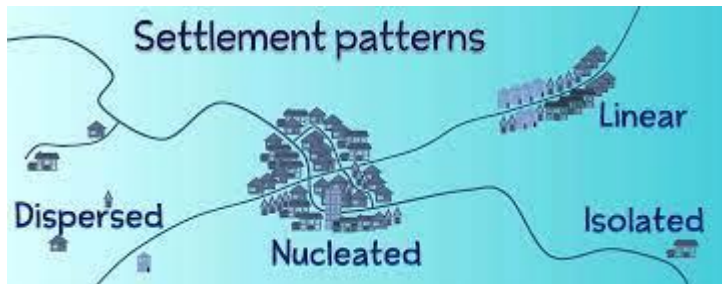


LESSON NOTE 7

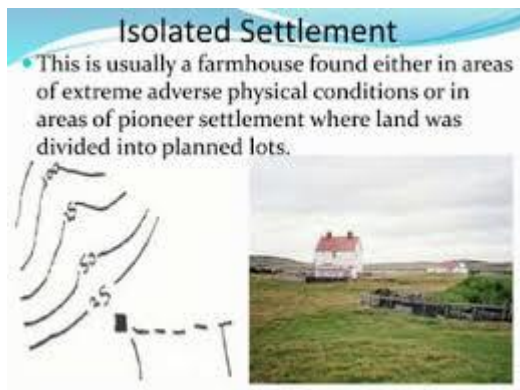
MEANING OF PATTERNS OF SETTLEMENT

Patterns of settlements simply refer to the arrangement of buildings in a settlement. There are four main patterns of settlement namely

-Dispersed, Linear, Nucleated and Isolated.



An **isolated settlement** consists of a single farm or house very remote from any other one, usually found in farming or hunting rural communities.

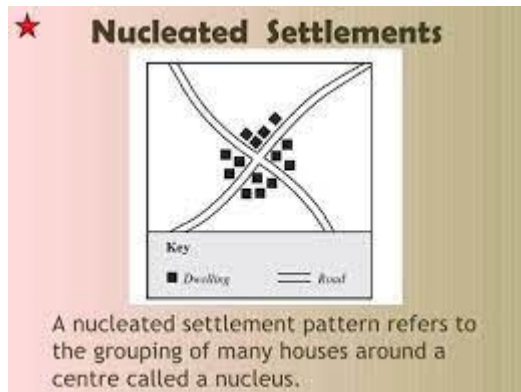


A **dispersed settlement** is made up of several houses, scattered or dispersed (as the name implies). One house may be up to one or more kilometers from the next.

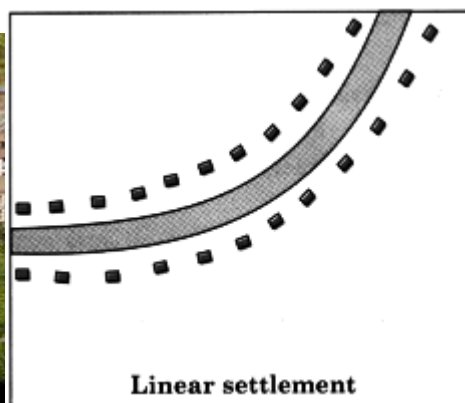


dispersed settlement pattern

In a **nucleated** or **compact settlement**, the buildings are clustered, linked by roads, and the settlement itself may have a nearly circular or irregular shape. Such settlements can be either cultural or urban, depending on the size and the functions they perform.



A **linear** or **elongated settlement** forms a straight or curved line, following a line of movement, such as a road, river, coastline or the foot of an elongated escarpment. This type of settlement is found in rural area, but linear developments may constitute extensions of towns on their outskirts.



Finally, the **integrated nucleated** and **linear** settlements combines the characteristics of both types of settlement and they are star-like. They often occur at junctions, and a number of them in urban settlements.

FACTORS SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF SETTLEMENT PATTERN

Physical Environment: One of the most basic factors affecting settlement patterns is the physical geography of the land. Climate is key, because if a place is too dry, too cold or too hot, it's more difficult for large numbers of people to settle there, especially if they make their living from farming. The land itself is important too because some types of soil are much better for agriculture than others, or they support different types of crops.

Transportation Systems: Settlement patterns have always been affected by the technology available to settlers, and especially by methods of transportation. In the past, when boats were the best way to transport goods and people, most major settlements were located next to the sea or rivers.

Economic Concerns: Economics often drive settlers to seek opportunity in new places, creating their own settlements or increasing the size of existing ones. Historically, settlers often came in search of places to start farms, and later they came to cities to look for jobs.

Government Policies: The government's land policies can also have a lasting effect on settlement patterns.

CLASSIFICATION BASED ON SIZE

We usually divide settlements into two main types according to size. A **rural settlement** refers to smaller settlements surrounded by the countryside such as a village. They are small in size and have low housing and population densities. On the other hand an **urban settlement** refers to a large built up area with houses built close together.

