

Settlements

Settlement is any inhabited and enclosed area that contains residential and non-residential units. Approximately 14 millions settlements are in the world.

Municipality – self governing region consisting of one or several settlements

Village – a settlement with small number of inhabitants (**less than 2000**). Its function is mainly *agricultural and residential centre*. Services are not so developed there.

Town – a settlement with number of inhabitants from 2,000-100,000.

City – a settlement with number of inhabitants higher than 100,000.

Metropolis – a city with particular tributary area. It is a seat of central bodies and institutions. There are three types of metropolises:

- world: Mexico City, New York, Tokyo, Sao Paulo, London, Paris...
- continental: Montreal, Brussels, Cairo, Jakarta...
- state: Bratislava, Košice
- national: Nitra

Agglomeration – an aggregation of a city and surrounding settlements that are tied together by mutual bonds. It creates homogenous unit that has no fixed boundaries.

- Bratislava, Vienna, Budapest...

Conurbation – an aggregation of cities that are mutually interconnected. Each city in a conurbation has its specific role that is concentrating on the most.

- *Ruhr region* (Düsseldorf, Köln am Rhein, Duisburg, Dortmund), *Upper-Silesian basin* (Katowice, Bytom, Sosnowiec)

Megalopolis – a large urbanized area at which are agglomerations, cities, and rural areas tightly interconnected into one unit that can be large hundreds of km².

- Bos-Wash (spreads from Boston, through New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington to Norfolk), Chi-Pitts (area between Chicago and Pittsburgh), Tokkaidó (Yokohama-Tokyo), Osaka-Kobe-Kyoto.

Urbanization – a process that has begun at the very start of the civilization, it continues nowadays and is considered to be one of the major problems of mankind. It is a continuous growth of the urban areas, and no. of people living in the urban areas. In the year 1950 the percentage of people living in the urban areas was 30% in the year 2000 - 45% and according to UN predictions will this number reach 65%.

10 largest cities by population:

1. Tokyo, Japan - 28,025,000
2. Mexico City, Mexico - 18,131,000
3. Mumbai, India - 18,042,000
4. São Paulo, Brazil - 17,711,000
5. New York City, USA - 16,626,000
6. Shanghai, China - 14,173,000
7. Lagos, Nigeria - 13,488,000
8. Los Angeles, USA - 13,129,000
9. Calcutta, India - 12,900,000
10. Buenos Aires, Argentina - 12,431,000

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