

## Country village

Many country villages lie close to towns and cities. When this is the case, they change character.

**Q1.** Why have most villages remained small?



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**Q2.** Where do most people in a village work?



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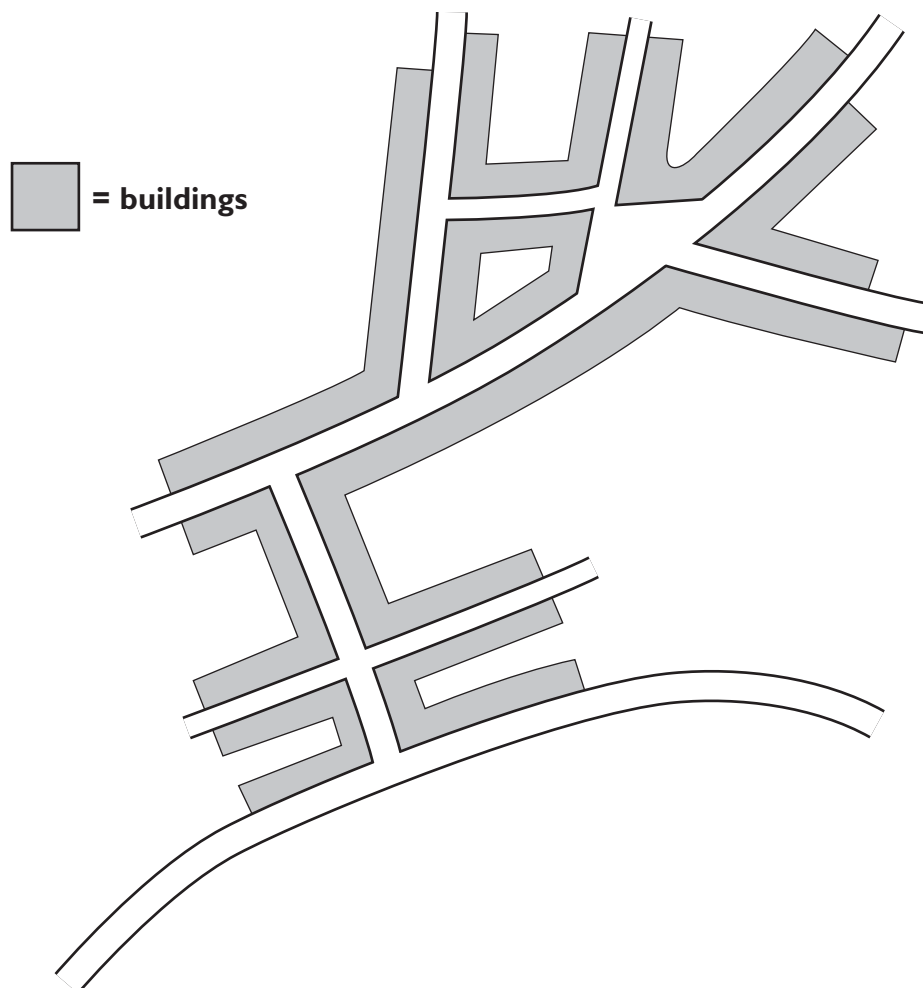
**Q3.** The map below shows a small village. Put a ring round where you think the shops might be found.

**Q4.** Write six things that a general store in a village might sell.



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## Background

Villages are the smallest places and as such have the least internal diversity. Most villages (in the geographer's sense) have several kinds of shop (service functions) and have hundreds, if not thousands of inhabitants. But, they do not have the variety of services that a town can offer.

Usually, villages lie beside or just off a main road, or at the junction of two minor roads.

When choosing a village to study, it may be helpful to concentrate on its location in the landscape first, and its shape second. More than any other kind of settlement, villages reflect regional domestic characteristics and so are more varied than towns or cities. This is where you might be able to find regional examples of thatch or slate tiling, for example.

## Answers

**Q1.** They have not developed into towns or cities, perhaps because they were not near to a meeting point of routes, or were simply out-competed by their neighbours.

**Q2.** Nowadays, in general, most people will be commuters, working in nearby towns or cities.

**Q3.** The most likely place is marked on the diagram below, because more roads meet here than at any other point. Notice that a small village will not have more than three or four shops. Students need to know that they cannot simply add rows of shops without regard for the size of the population they serve.

**Q4.** For this answer, students should think about their day-to-day needs. Vegetables, household cleaners, electric light bulbs, sweets, tinned food, frozen food (but fresh meat would be less likely), soft drinks, birthday cards. The list is long, of course, and gives the opportunity for students to each make their own contributions.

Assume that the nearby town or city is 10 miles away and cannot easily be reached each day. As you will know, most local stores are used as top-up convenience stores to supplement the weekly shop at the town or city supermarket.

