

Module: Economic Geography
Topic Content: Site and Situation

Site and Situation



Click next to begin.

Module: Economic Geography
Topic Content: Site and Situation

Site and Situation

<h3>Site</h3> <p>The actual location of a city. Describes the local physical characteristics of a where a city is located.</p>	<h3>Situation</h3> <p>The relative location of a city. Describes where a city is in relation to something else, and is influenced by regional and global connections.</p>
--	---

When geographers study a city, they analyze its location using the concepts of site and situation. Site is the actual location of a city. It is not based on GPS coordinates or latitude and longitude; rather, the site of a city describes the local physical characteristics of where it is located. Situation is the relative location of a city. It is described by where it is in relation to something else, such as geographic features, regions, resources, or transport routes. The situation of a city is influenced by regional and global connections.

Module: Economic Geography

Topic Content: Site and Situation

Menu

Click each button below to learn more about site and situation

Site	Situation
Confluence Sites	Baghdad
Fall Line Sites	Cape Town and Hawaii
Harbor Sites	Istanbul
Hilltop Sites	Mecca and Varanasi
Island Sites	Novosibirsk and Vladivostok
Narrowed River Sites	
Oasis Sites	

To better understand these concepts, click each of the buttons to explore specific examples.

Module: Economic Geography

Topic Content: Site and Situation

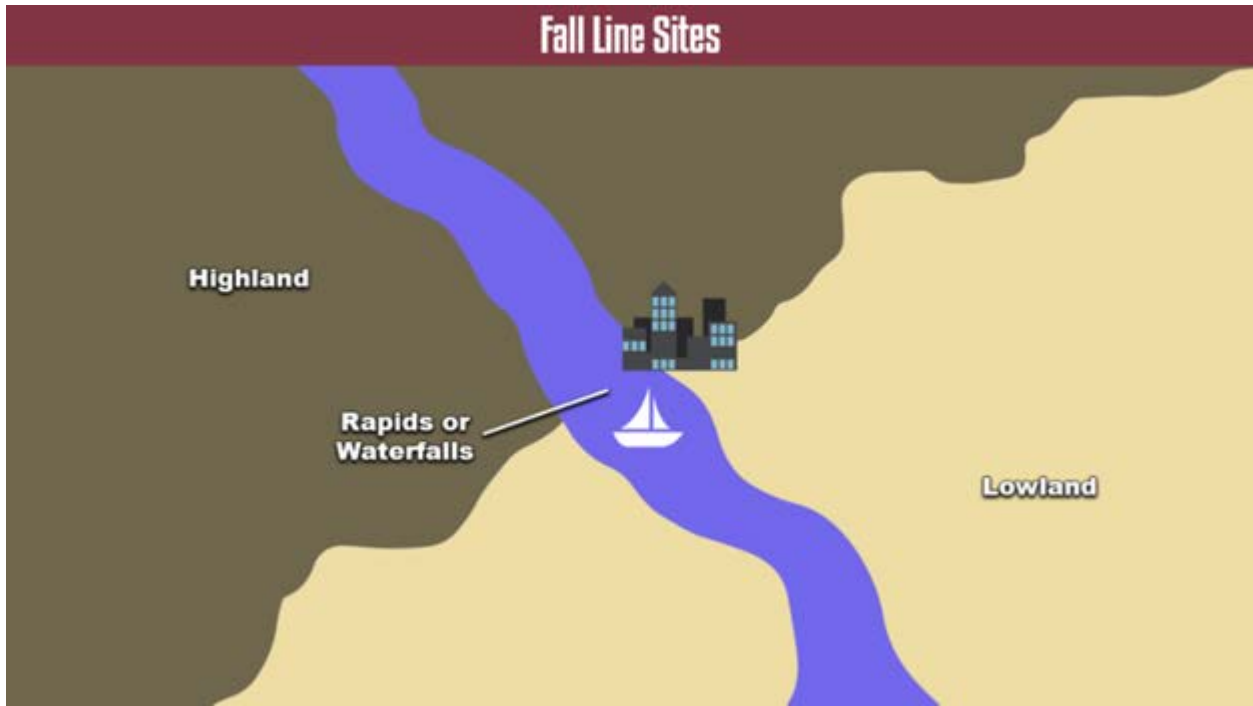
Confluence Sites



A confluence site is an area where two or more bodies of water meet. The water at a confluence site serves as a defensive barrier while also offering access to trade and transportation. One example is Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where the Allegheny River, Monongahela River, and Ohio River meet. Another example is the city of Khartoum, Sudan, which is located at the converging point of the Nile River and its two main tributaries, the Blue Nile and the White Nile.

Module: Economic Geography
Topic Content: Site and Situation

Fall Line Sites

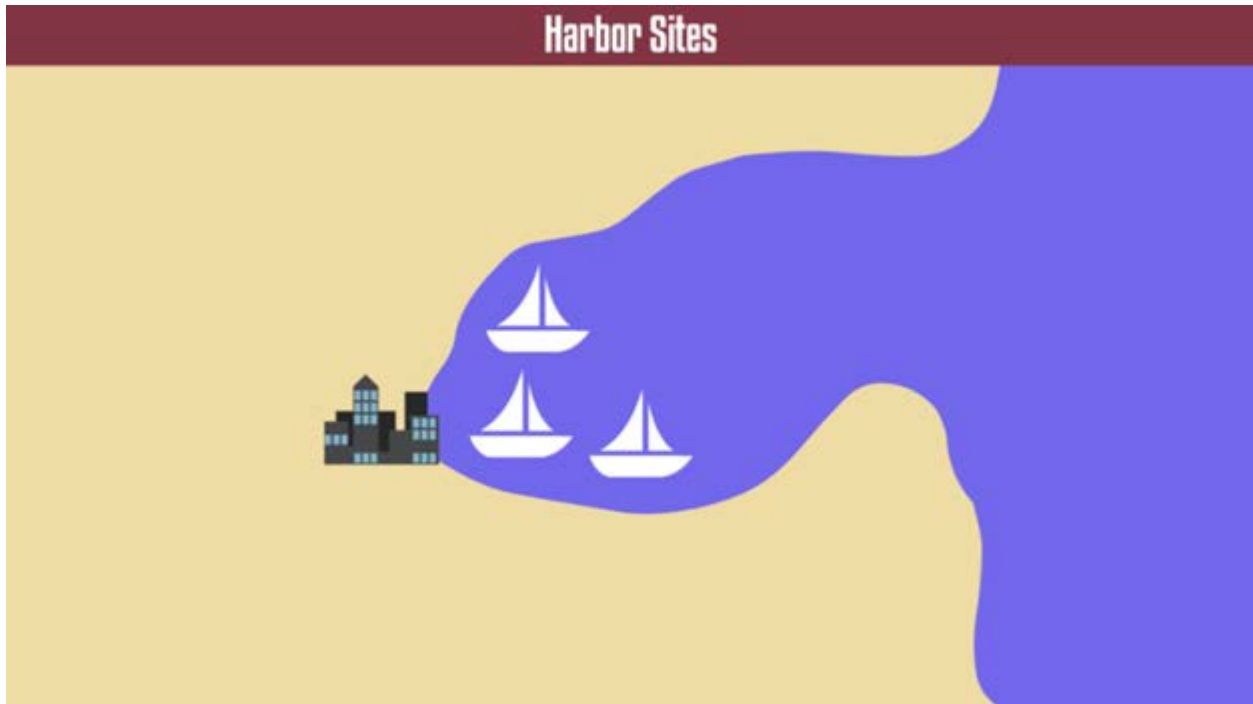


A fall line site is an area where an upland region meets a lowland plain. Rivers in a fall line site contain rapids or waterfalls, and mark the inland limit that ships can reach from the mouth of the river. An example of a fall line site is the city of Richmond, Virginia, which is located on the James River, between the Piedmont region and the coastal plain.

Module: Economic Geography

Topic Content: Site and Situation

Harbor Sites

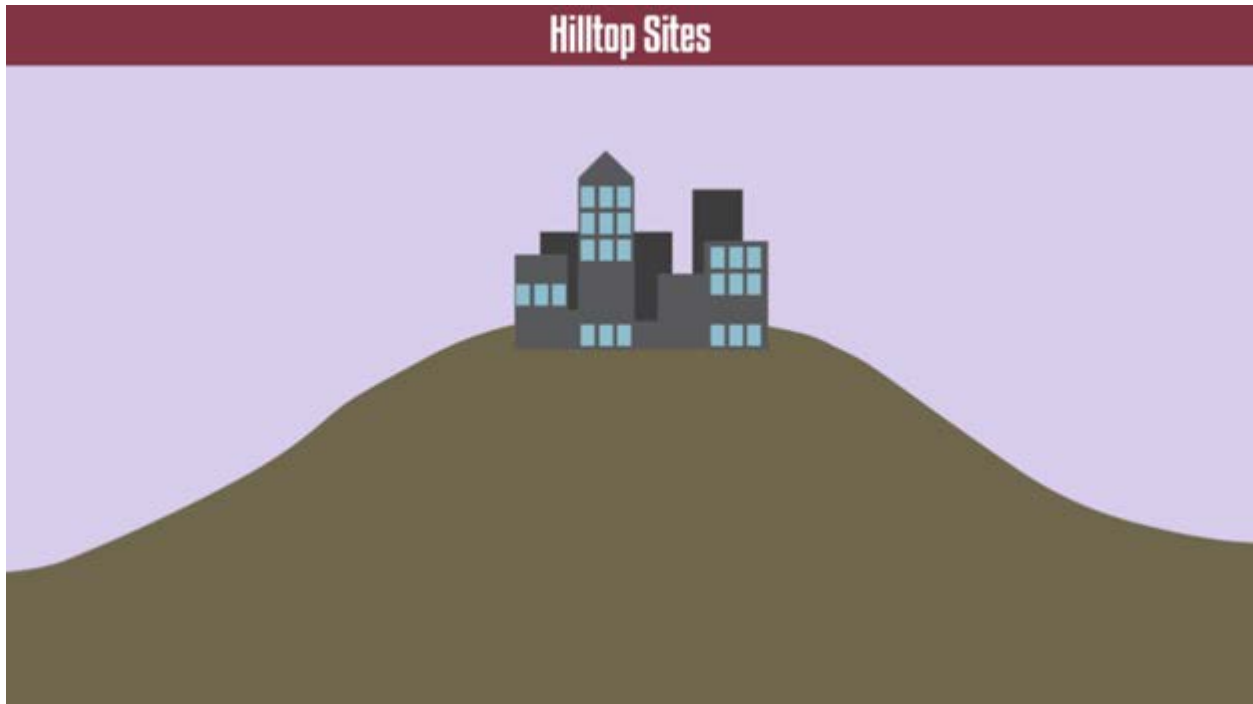


Harbor sites are coastal areas where ships are able to anchor or dock, while being sheltered from rough waters. Examples of harbor sites include New York City in the United States, and Istanbul in Turkey.

Module: Economic Geography

Topic Content: Site and Situation

Hilltop Sites



Hilltop sites are located on land that is elevated above the surrounding terrain. The elevated position of a hilltop site offers a greater view of the surrounding area and a defensive advantage in combat. These sites are also less susceptible to flooding. Examples of hilltop sites include Rome, Italy and Athens, Greece.

Module: Economic Geography
Topic Content: Site and Situation

Island Sites



As the name suggests, an island site is located on an island. Island sites are surrounded by water, which means they generally have a defensive advantage and greater access to transportation and trade routes. Examples of island sites include the city of Hong Kong and the city-state of Singapore.

Module: Economic Geography
Topic Content: Site and Situation

Narrowed River Sites



Many cities are built on the site where rivers narrow. A narrowed river site provides access to a navigable waterway, but it is also an ideal location for people to cross the river via bridge, tunnel, or ferry. The city of London, England is located on the narrow part of the Thames River, and Quebec City, Canada is located on the narrow part of the Saint Lawrence River.

Module: Economic Geography

Topic Content: Site and Situation

Oasis Sites



An oasis site is an area of fertile land with access to water that is located in a larger desert region. The city of Damascus in Syria is an example of an oasis site.

Module: Economic Geography

Topic Content: Site and Situation

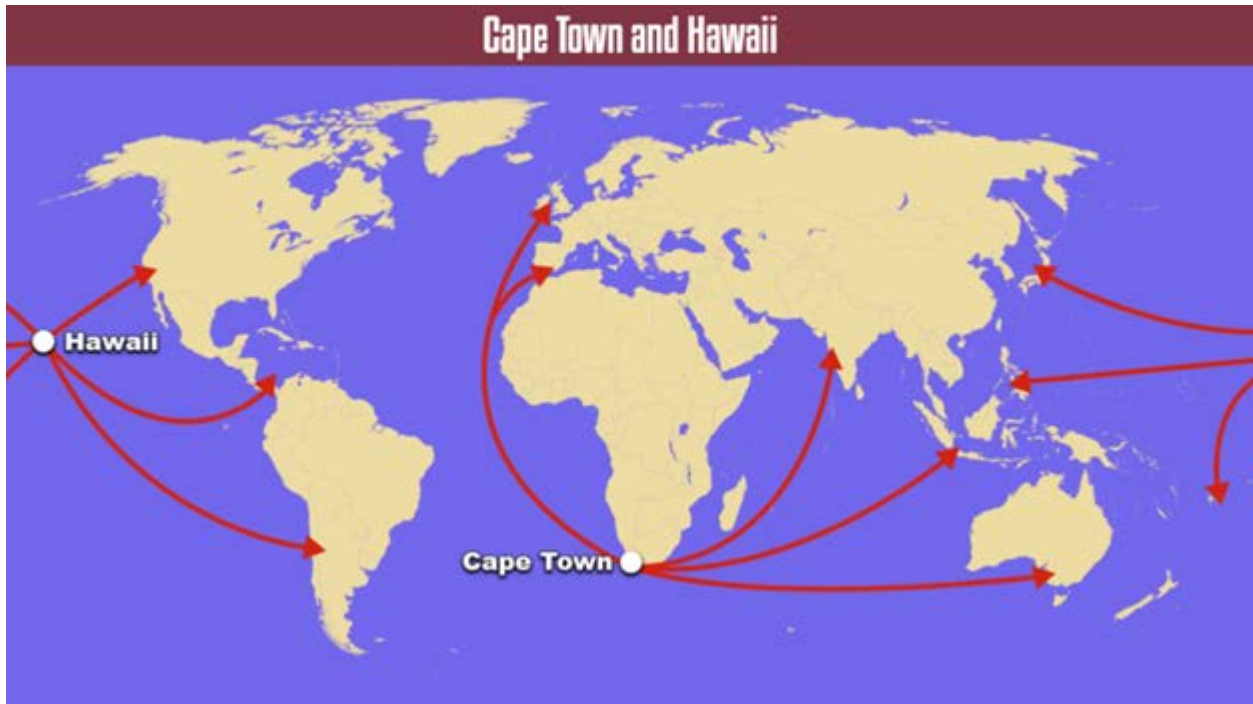
Baghdad



Founded in 762 A.D. (C.E.), the city of Baghdad functioned as the capital of the Islamic Empire under the Abbasid Dynasty. The city thrived because of its strategic situation between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. These rivers provide fresh water in an otherwise dry region, serve as natural barriers for defense, and operate as important trade routes.

Module: Economic Geography
Topic Content: Site and Situation

Cape Town and Hawaii



Cape Town, South Africa is a coastal city situated at the southern tip of the African continent. Ships traveling between Europe and Asia through the South Atlantic Ocean have long used Cape Town as a port and a supply station. Similarly, the Hawaiian archipelago is situated in a key location for ships looking to resupply when traveling across the Pacific Ocean.

Module: Economic Geography

Topic Content: Site and Situation

Istanbul

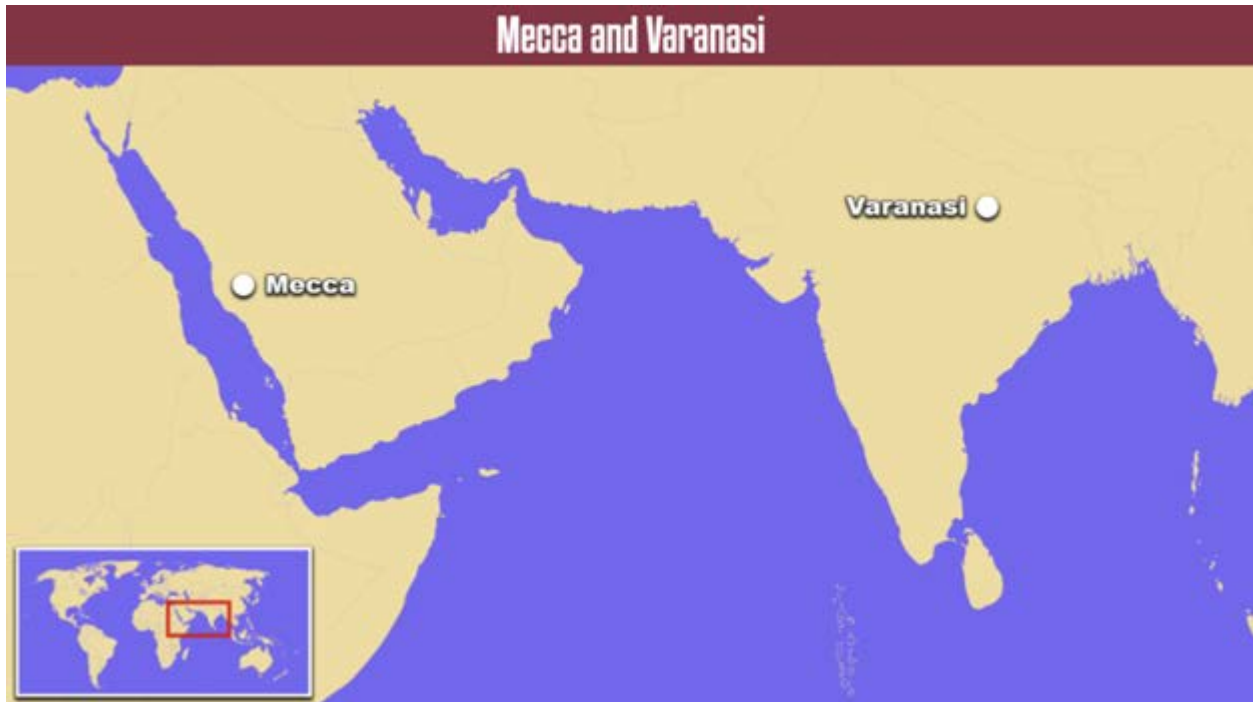


The city of Istanbul has remained an important city throughout history. In fact, this ancient city, once known as Byzantium, was renamed Constantinople in 330 A.D. (C.E.) and became the capital of the Roman Empire. The city is situated near the Bosphorus Strait, which connects the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara. The strait also acts as a land bridge from Asia to Europe. This situation helped protect Istanbul from invasion, but also placed it at the heart of Asian and European trade.

Module: Economic Geography

Topic Content: Site and Situation

Mecca and Varanasi



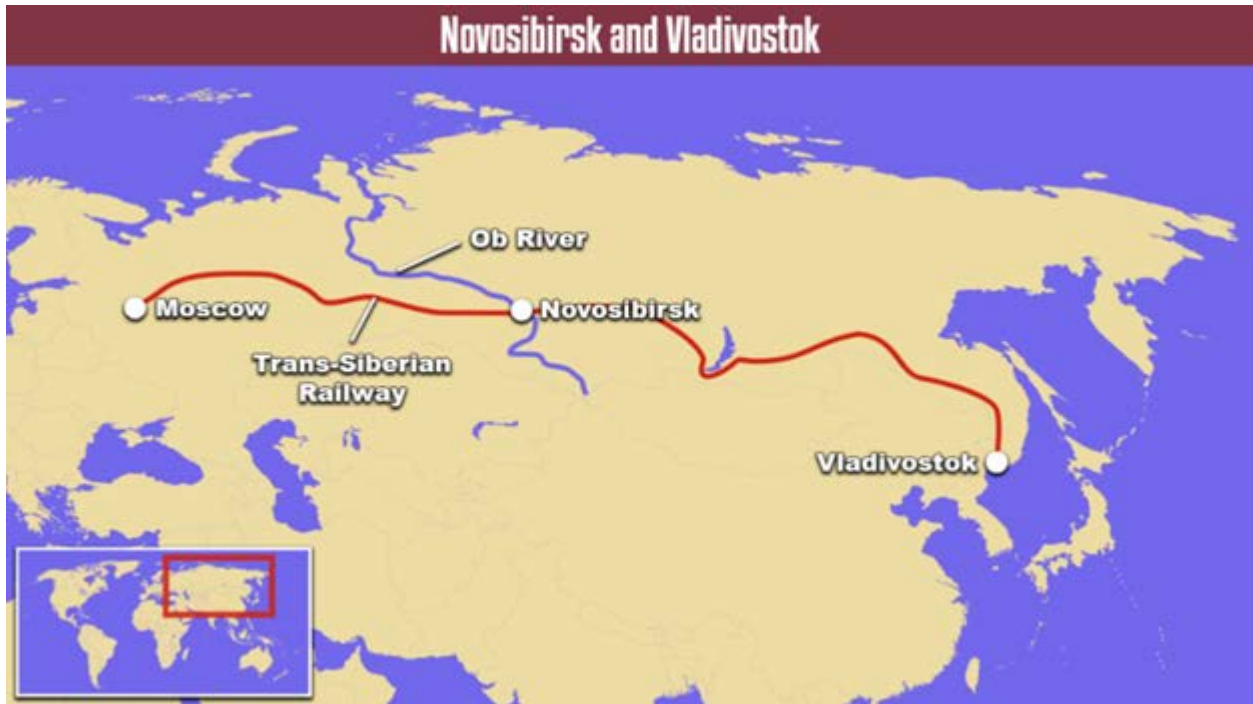
The cities of Mecca, Saudi Arabia and Varanasi, India have thrived due to their situation near focal points of religious significance and pilgrimage. In the Islamic faith, followers are expected to make a religious journey to the holy city of Mecca at least once in their lives, if they are physically and financially able to do so.

Varanasi, also known as Benares, is often called “the religious capital of India,” and holds religious significance for followers of Hinduism and Buddhism. Hindus consider the city to be sacred, and believe that washing in the nearby Ganges River cleanses sin. Buddhists believe that Buddha gave his first sermon to his disciples at nearby Sarnath. Although pilgrimage is not expected of Hindus or Buddhists, it is common practice, which has helped the city thrive.

Module: Economic Geography

Topic Content: Site and Situation

Novosibirsk and Vladivostok



The Russian cities of Novosibirsk and Vladivostok grew because they were situated along the Trans-Siberian Railway. Construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway began in the 1890s, and was intended to connect Moscow with Eastern Russia. Access to this vast transportation network helped develop the city of Novosibirsk, which is near the Ob River, and the coastal city of Vladivostok, which is Russia's largest port in the Pacific Ocean.