

# Module 7

## Settlements

### A • The Garden City Movement

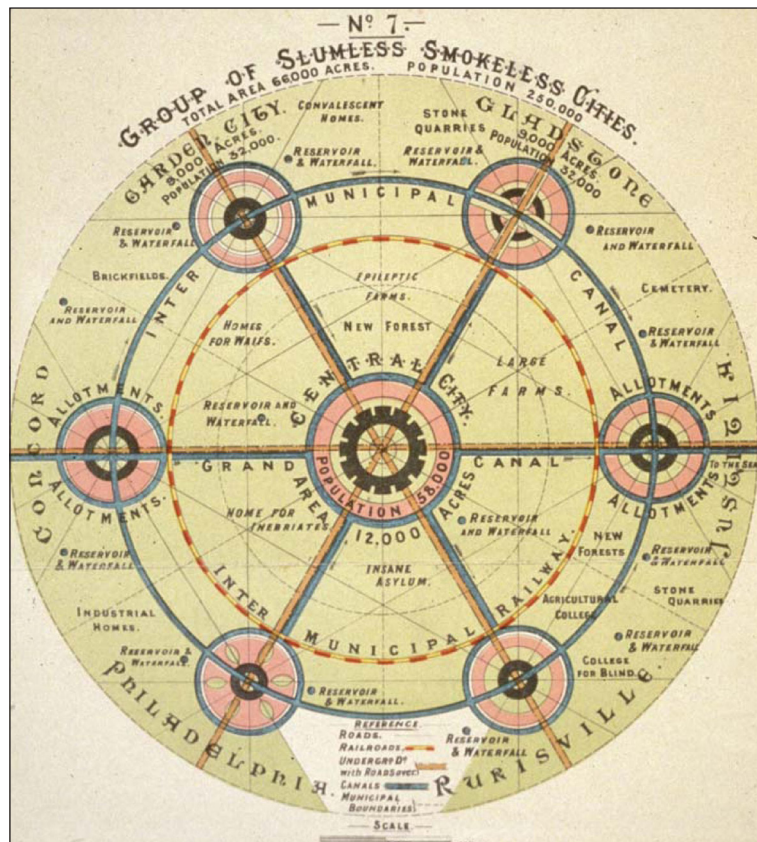
1  Complete the short text below with the words in the box.

accommodation • communities • features • land • need • overcrowding • planning •  
residences • rural • town

The **Garden City movement** is an approach to urban (1) ..... that was founded in Great Britain in 1898 by Sir Ebenezer Howard. "Garden Cities" were intended to be planned as self-contained (2) ..... surrounded by greenbelts, containing carefully balanced areas of (3) ....., industry and agriculture. Howard's plan for Garden Cities was a response to the (4) ..... for improvement in the quality of urban life, which had been spoiled by (5) ..... due to uncontrolled growth since the Industrial Revolution. The main (6) ..... of Howard's scheme were:

- the planning of a compact (7) ..... surrounded by a wide rural belt;
- the (8) ..... of residents, industry, and agriculture within the town;
- the limitation of the extent of the town towards the (9) ..... belt;
- the natural rise in (10) ..... values to be used for the town's own general welfare.

Garden City map



## 2 Read the text and find the required information.

In 1902, Howard published his book *Garden Cities of Tomorrow*, where he described his ideal Garden City: it would house 32,000 people on a site of 2400 hectares, planned on a concentric pattern with open spaces, public parks and six radial boulevards, 37 m. wide, extending from the centre. The Garden City would be self-sufficient and when it reached full population, a further garden city would be developed nearby. Howard imagined a group of several garden cities as satellites of a central city of 50,000 people, linked by road and rail. In 1899, he organized the Garden City Association. Two “garden cities” were founded on his ideas: Letchworth Garden City and Welwyn Garden City. The concept was adopted again after World War II, when the New Towns Act produced the development of many new communities based on Howard’s ideas. Garden city principles greatly influenced the design of colonial and post-colonial capitals in the first decades of the 20th century, as in the cases of New Delhi (designed as the new capital of British-ruled India following WWI) and Canberra, capital of Australia, established in 1913.



Welwyn Garden City: ancient map

**Title of book:** .....

**Year of publication:** .....

**Main contents of book:** .....

**Number of inhabitants in a Garden City:** .....

**Pattern of the city:** .....

**Width of the boulevards:** .....

**Later developments:** .....

**Configuration of the whole city:** .....

**1899:** .....

**Names of the two “Garden Cities”:** .....

**Concept of “Garden City” after World War II:** .....

**Capital cities built according to “Garden City” concept:** .....

## B • Welwyn Garden City today

### 3 Role playing.

**Student A.** You are an Italian tourist asking for information about Welwyn at the Tourist information centre. You are on holiday in England at the moment, but in Italy you work as a city planner in a small town.

**Student B.** You are the person at the Information desk.

### Build up a dialogue using the text below as a guide.

Welwyn Garden City is one of England's finest examples of a New Town. It takes its name from Welwyn, a separate village situated several miles north of the new town. It was founded by Sir Ebenezer Howard in the 1920s following his previous experiment in Letchworth Garden City. Howard believed that Garden Cities were the perfect blend of city and nature. Welwyn Garden City represents the physical, social and cultural planning ideals of the period in which it was built.

Because of its historical importance, it attracts visitors from all around the world. The town is laid out along tree-lined boulevards with a neo-Georgian town centre. It has its own environmental protection legislation, the Scheme of Management for Welwyn Garden City. The spine of the town is Parkway, a central mall almost a mile long. Older houses are on the west side of Parkway and newer houses on the east side.

Welwyn Garden City offers excellent modern shopping areas, comprising mainly of the modern Howard Centre indoor shopping centre, The industrial and business parks are home to some top companies, including Xerox, Tesco and Roche. There are two golf courses in the town. Gosling Sports Centre offers excellent facilities including a dry ski slope, a golf driving range, indoor and outdoor tennis, squash, football pitches, an athletics track, a gym and bowls. You can visit the Roman Baths which are preserved in a steel vault underneath junction 6 of the A1 Motorway.



Welwyn Garden City today

STUDENT A	STUDENT B
Introduce yourself and ask where the name Welwyn Garden City comes from.	Welcome student A and give explanation.
Ask who founded the town and when.	Give information.
Ask why Welwyn has historical importance.	Give explanation.
Ask about the layout of the town.	Give information.
Ask if there is any management body to protect the city.	Give information.
Ask about shopping centres and sport facilities.	Give information.
Ask about archaeological sites.	Give information.