Rural Settlement and Land Use

**KEEP IN MIND:** Here, we are looking at how the rural area of Canada were settled, historically. Many locations that were once rural are now urban (e.g., Winnipeg). This historical pattern has an impact on not only current rural patterns but also the development of Canadian cities, too!
Rural Settlement Patterns

Factors that Influence Rural Settlement

1. **The kinds of resources in the area** – Eg. agriculture in southern Ontario develops a different settlement pattern then the forestry resource in the Canadian Shield

2. **The transportation methods at the time** – Before 1800, settlement was based on transportation by water. Settled areas tend to be next to rivers and lakes. Areas settled after 1800 were increasingly based on road and eventually rail.

3. **The role government played in settlement** – Some areas had a lot of government input into the process of settlement. They would control which land would be settled, size, shape of farms, pattern of roads, location of towns, schools, churches. A set of rules that control these things is called the **SURVEY SYSTEM**
The Long Lots of Southern Quebec

- Stretch back from a river - it was the only means of transportation in the early days.
- Taxes were based upon the width of the lots and lots became, therefore, very long and thin.
- When all the suitable riverfront areas had been used, roads were built parallel to the river and back a certain distance.
- Villages tended to be linear in shape, that is, stretched along the road.
- Farmhouses were close together.
- These settlement patterns can be seen in parts of southwestern Ontario near Windsor, southern Manitoba and the Peace River district of British Columbia.
The Long Lots of Southern Quebec
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Concession System of Southern Ontario

- Concessions are areas of land enclosed by the grid pattern of the survey system used in Southern Ontario.
- Within concessions the land was divided into equal farm lots.
- Farmhouses tended to be built near intersections so as to be close to one another.
- Concessions were put together to form townships and townships were put together to form counties.
Concession System of Southern Ontario
Section System of the Southern Prairies

- Western Canada was surveyed before there was any large scale
- The government needed a fast, efficient system to settle the west.
- The baseline was The 49th Parallel was chosen as a baseline
- Survey lines were drawn on maps every 6 miles (10kms) parallel to the baseline (called township lines)
- North-south lines were surveyed and mapped every 6 miles to form long wide bands called ranges.
- The enclosed squares, called townships, are 36 miles square.
- These were subdivided into 36 one-square-mile blocks called sections.
- Each section was subdivided into quarter-sections.
Section System of the Southern Prairies
Other Rural Scattered Settlements

Resource-based settlement
- Atlantic and Pacific Maritime ecozones = fishing
- Montane Cordillera = mining/energy

Service-based Settlement
- along transportation routes, people work in hotels, gas stations or restaurants.
Winnipeg – A transportation centre