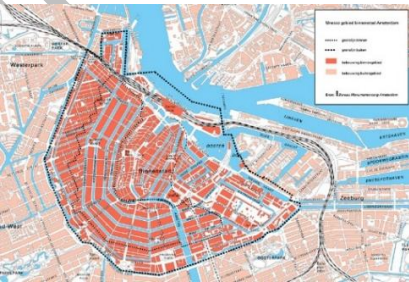


## Activity C

Sewerage system	canal
windmill	city layout
defence wall	dam
barge	moat
bridge	urban expansion
island	museum



**A.**

Amsterdam has over 100 kilometres of **canals**, which are more than Venice has, and 90 **islands**, which are connected by about 1,500 **bridges**. Fortunately, the canals are cleaner than they used to be because clean water is pumped in from a local lake and dirty water is pumped out. On the surface all the house boats are connected to the **sewerage system**.

**B.**

How did Amsterdam become a city of canals with a **layout** unlike any other in the world? Originally, the canals were built as **moats**, for defence. However, as the city expanded, **dams** lost their **defence** function and they became the means for transporting, on **barges**, merchandise from all over the world. Amsterdam became very wealthy and the late 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries were known as the “Golden Age” of the city, when there was serious **urban expansion**. Amsterdam first developed as a fishing village after a dam in the Amstel River was built in about 1250. The name *Amsterdam* comes from *Aeme Stelle Redamme* (Medieval Dutch for “Dam in a Watery Area”). Few of its medieval buildings have survived, however, because they were made of wood.

The most important historical buildings in Amsterdam today date back to the “Golden Age”, when economic success brought people to the city. This immigration gave Amsterdam freedom of trade, thought and religion. The city attracted famous scholars and philosophers like Descartes. These people enjoyed greater liberty in Amsterdam than anywhere else in Europe at the time.

**C.**

Today Amsterdam is a popular holiday destination, especially in summer, when the canals are busy with boats. There are cruises, from inexpensive tours to luxury cruises with dinner and entertainment. Tourists can also walk along the four main canals and see some of the most beautiful parts of the city, including the area where Amsterdam’s most famous houseboats are. Visitors to Amsterdam will find lots to see, like the trademark **windmills** outside the city. Someone must also see are the Van Gogh Museum and the Anne Frank house.

