

Finn's Great Ocean Map

Learning objective: To understand and apply basic map skills, including the use of a compass rose, keys, and symbols.

Read the story about Finn the dolphin and answer the questions that follow. Use the text to help you find the answers.

Finn the dolphin loves exploring the deep blue ocean, but he never gets lost because he is an expert at reading maps. Today, Finn is using a map to find the Hidden Coral Reef. To start, Finn looks at the compass rose in the corner of his map. This shows him the cardinal points: North, South, East, and West. He sees that the reef is to the East of his current home.

Finn notices several small shapes on the map. He checks the map key, also known as the legend, to understand what they mean. A tiny blue anchor symbol represents a safe harbour, and a yellow star marks a treasure chest. Finn follows a straight line across the map, carefully counting the centimetres to understand the distance using the map scale. He swims past the Great Kelp Forest, keeping the sun to his back, until he finally spots the bright, colourful coral of the reef. Finn knows that being able to read a map is the most important skill for any ocean adventurer!

Word bank: Compass Rose · Legend · Cardinal Points · Symbols · Scale

1. What are the four cardinal points shown on the compass rose? (2 marks)

2. According to the map key, what does the yellow star symbol represent? (1 mark)

3. How does Finn know which direction to swim to find the Hidden Coral Reef? (2 marks)

4. Why did Finn need to look at the map key before he started his journey? (2 marks)

5. Do you think it is more important to have a map or a compass rose when exploring? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of your own imaginary island. Include a compass rose, a map key with three symbols, and a path leading to a secret location.



Extension challenge: Imagine Finn finds a new underwater volcano. Where would he place it on his map if it was South of the Hidden Coral Reef? Draw this on your map.