

Exploring the Map with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To use and interpret map symbols, understand the four cardinal points of a compass, and use a map key to identify features.

Finn the Dolphin is mapping a new part of the ocean and the nearby coastline. Help Finn complete his map skills challenge by answering the questions below.

Word bank: North · South · East · West · Legend · Symbol · Scale

1. What are the four main points of a compass called, and which one always points towards the top of a standard map? (2 marks)

2. Finn has used a small picture of an anchor to show where a harbour is located. What is the geographical term for a picture used on a map to represent a real-life feature? (1 mark)

3. If Finn is swimming North and decides to make a right-hand turn, which cardinal direction will he be swimming in? (1 mark)

4. Why is it important for a map to have a key (also known as a legend)? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

5. Imagine you see a blue line on a map. What does this usually represent, and how would you know for sure? (2 marks)

6. Finn wants to know the actual distance between two islands. Which part of the map should he look at to convert the map distance into real-world kilometres? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a simple map of a fictional island. Include a compass rose, a map key with three different symbols (e.g. a forest, a mountain, and a village), and a title for your island.



Extension challenge: If Finn travels South for 5 kilometres and then East for 2 kilometres, draw a diagram to show his journey and explain how he could get back to his starting point using compass directions.