

Mapping My Local Area with Finn

Learning objective: To use map symbols, a key, and compass directions to describe a local area.

Finn the dolphin has travelled from the ocean to help you map your local area! Use the prompts below to write a detailed description of your map, explaining how to find different landmarks.

My map shows the area around my school, and I have used a key to make it easy to read.

Word bank: north · south · east · west · symbol · key · legend · landmark · adjacent to · furthestmost · located · compass rose

1. The Key and Symbols: What symbols have you used on your map to represent different places? For example, 'I used a small blue square to show...'

2. Using the Compass: Which direction is the most important landmark from the centre of your map? For example, 'If you travel North from the school, you will find...'

3. Describing Locations: Where are two different landmarks located in relation to each other? For example, 'The park is located to the East of...'

4. Giving Directions: How would someone get from the start of your map to the finish? For example, 'First, head West towards... then turn...'

5. Map Accuracy: Why is it important to have a clear key and a compass rose on your map?
For example, 'Without a key, a person might think...'

Extension challenge: Can you add a scale to your map? Explain in one sentence how many centimetres on your paper equal one metre in real life.