

Finn's Great Map Adventure: Mastering Grid References

Learning objective: To be able to use four-figure grid references to locate features on a map.

Use this writing scaffold to explain how to navigate using grid references. Imagine you are helping Finn the dolphin find his way across the coastal map. Remember to describe the journey clearly using your four-figure grid references.

Finn the dolphin is ready to map the coastline, but he needs to make sure he records exactly where he finds each hidden treasure.

Word bank: along the corridor · up the stairs · firstly · subsequently · located at · the intersection · horizontal axis · vertical axis · in the square

1. Introduction: Describe the importance of using grid references on a map. Start with: 'Using grid references is a clever way to...' (2 marks)

2. The Method: Explain the 'along the corridor, up the stairs' rule. Start with: 'To find a specific square, you must first look at the numbers along the bottom, then...' (3 marks)

3. Application: Choose a feature on your map (like a lighthouse or a sandy beach). Describe its location using a four-figure grid reference. Start with: 'The treasure chest is hidden in square...' (3 marks)

4. Problem Solving: If you were lost in a forest, why would a grid reference be more helpful than just saying 'near a tree'? Start with: 'A grid reference is better because...' (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise how Finn can use this skill to keep his maps accurate. Start with: 'By using these coordinates, Finn can ensure...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Create your own 5x5 grid map. Draw five different landmarks in different squares and write a challenge for a partner to find them using only four-figure grid references.