

Finn's Fantastic Map-Reading Adventure

Learning objective: To identify and use standard map symbols, keys, and four-figure grid references to navigate the landscape.

Join Finn the dolphin on his coastal expedition! Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of cartography to help Finn find his way across the map.

Answer Key: 1. A (Key); 2. True; 3. Scale; 4. B (North); 5. False; 6. Symbol; 7. 4-figure; 8. A (Contour lines); 9. Easting; 10. True.

Word bank: Compass · Key · Grid reference · Symbol · Scale · Ordnance Survey · Latitude · Longitude

1. 1. What do we call the box on a map that explains what each symbol means? A) The Key*, B) The Legend, C) The Compass, D) The Map Box (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: A compass rose always shows the direction of North. (1 mark)

3. 3. Which map feature helps us work out the real-life distance between two places shown on a map? (1 mark)

4. 4. If you are standing at the bottom of a map and look towards the top, which direction are you facing? A) South, B) North*, C) East, D) West (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: You can use a map key to find out the population of a town. (1 mark)

6. 6. A tiny drawing of a blue anchor on a map is an example of a what? (1 mark)

7. 7. Which type of grid reference uses four numbers to help us locate a square on a map? (1 mark)

8. 8. Which of these shows us how steep the land is? A) Contour lines*, B) Grid lines, C) River lines, D) Road lines (1 mark)

9. 9. When reading a four-figure grid reference, which number do you look at first: the Easting or the Northing? (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: Maps are drawn to scale, meaning the distances are proportional to real life. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a map of your journey from your home to school. Include at least three symbols in the legend (e.g., a tree for a park, a triangle for a hill, and a square for a shop) and a compass rose showing North.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: 1. Explain why cartographers use symbols instead of writing the names of features on the map. 2. Compare and contrast a physical map with a political map; how might their purposes differ? 3. Justify your answer: Why is it vital for a hiker to understand scale before embarking on a long journey? 4. What might happen if a map did not include a scale or a key? 5. If you were drawing a map of your local area, how would you decide which features are important enough to include? 6. Imagine you are lost in a forest with only a map and compass; describe the exact steps you would take to orient yourself.