

Year 5 Geography: Mastering Map Skills

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of grid references, symbols, compass points, and map scale.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of geography to provide clear, detailed answers. Ensure you use the provided word bank where appropriate.

Finn the dolphin is helping a group of explorers map a new coastal nature reserve. They need to locate special landmarks, measure distances between the beach and the forest, and understand how the land rises and falls using symbols and lines.

Word bank: Four-figure grid reference · Six-figure grid reference · Compass rose · Key · Scale · Contour lines · Ordnance Survey

1. What is the purpose of a map key, and why is it essential when reading an Ordnance Survey map? (2 marks)

2. Explain the difference between a four-figure grid reference and a six-figure grid reference. When would you use a six-figure reference instead of a four-figure one? (3 marks)

3. If a map has a scale of 1:50,000, how many kilometres does 2cm on the map represent in the real world? (2 marks)

4. Look at the compass rose. If you are travelling from a lighthouse at North-East to a village at South-West, which direction are you moving in? (2 marks)

5. Describe what contour lines represent on a map. How can a map reader tell if a hill is very steep or very gentle just by looking at these lines? (4 marks)

6. Finn needs to hide a treasure chest at the exact location of 452 783. Explain exactly how he should use his map to find this specific spot. (3 marks)

7. Imagine you are designing a map for a new park. Write a 5-mark extended response explaining which features you would include to make it easy for a visitor to navigate, and why each feature is important. (5 marks)

8. If a map costs £4.50 and you buy three of them for your exploration team, what is the total cost in Australian dollars and cents? (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a small map of an island. Include a compass rose, a simple key with at least three symbols (e.g., a tree for a forest, a blue triangle for a mountain, and a circle for a town), and one scale bar.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Research why map projections, like the Mercator projection, can make countries near the poles look larger than they actually are.