

Mapping the World with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To develop map-reading skills using grid references, map symbols, and compass directions.

Use your knowledge of map features to answer the questions below. Remember to look for keys, coordinates, and directional points.

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

1. Finn is planning a swim from the harbour at grid reference A1 to the coral reef at B4. If the map scale says that 1cm represents 2km, and the distance on your map is 4cm, how far does Finn actually swim in kilometres? (2 marks)

2. Explain why a map 'key' is essential when looking at a complex topographical map. What might happen if a map did not include one? (2 marks)

3. Look at a standard compass rose. If Finn is swimming North and then turns 90 degrees to the right, what compass direction is he now facing? (1 mark)

4. Identify two features you would expect to see on an Ordnance Survey map that help you understand the height of the land. (2 marks)

5. Finn finds a sunken treasure chest at coordinate C2. If he moves two squares East and one square South, what is his new grid reference? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a simple map of a fictional island. Include a compass rose, a map key with at least four different symbols (e.g., forest, sandy beach, mountain, lighthouse), and a grid system labelled with letters across the top and numbers down the side.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are designing a new park for your local town. Write a short paragraph explaining where you would place the main entrance, the play area, and the pond. Use grid references to describe their positions relative to each other.