

Mapping Our Local Area with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To use and interpret maps, including symbols, keys, and four-figure grid references.

Use this writing frame to describe a journey through your local area. Imagine you are guiding Finn the Dolphin on his first visit to our town. Refer to your map, use the word bank to help your descriptions, and ensure you include geographical vocabulary.

As Finn the Dolphin glides into our local area, he is eager to use his map-reading skills to discover the hidden treasures of our town.

Word bank: furthermore · located to the north · situated · in contrast · adjacent to · approximately · grid reference · topographical features · legend/key · subsequently

1. Introduction: Describe the location of our town and the overall layout of the area. Start by writing: 'To begin our journey, we must first look at the map key to understand the symbols for...' (2 marks)

2. Key Landmarks: Identify two important landmarks on your map and provide their four-figure grid references. Start by writing: 'One significant landmark is the [landmark name], which can be found at grid reference...' (3 marks)

3. The Journey: Describe the route between two points on your map, using compass directions (north, south, east, west). Start by writing: 'To travel from the [starting point] to the [destination], one must head...' (3 marks)

4. Geographical Features: Explain any natural features present in the area, such as rivers or parks. Start by writing: 'Furthermore, the natural landscape is dominated by...' (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise why maps are useful for explorers like Finn. Start by writing: 'In conclusion, maps are essential tools because...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a new, original symbol for a landmark that isn't on your current map. Explain what your symbol represents and why it is useful for someone visiting the area for the first time.