

Finn's Map Skills Masterclass

Learning objective: To develop spatial awareness and map-reading proficiency using coordinates, symbols, and compass directions.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of mapping. Work with a partner to define the terms and explain how they help us navigate the world.

What is the purpose of a map 'Key' or 'Legend'?

A key explains the symbols and colours used on a map so that the reader can understand what features, such as woodlands, rivers, or roads, are represented.

Define a 'Compass Rose' and name the four cardinal points.

A compass rose is a diagram on a map showing directions. The four cardinal points are North, East, South, and West.

Explain what a map 'Scale' tells us.

A scale shows the relationship between the distance on the map and the actual distance on the ground, allowing us to calculate real-world measurements.

What are 'Grid References' and why are they useful?

Grid references are a system of numbers and letters used to pinpoint a specific location on a map, making it easier to find places quickly.

Compare and contrast a 'Physical Map' and a 'Political Map'.

A physical map shows natural features like mountains and rivers, while a political map shows man-made boundaries like countries, cities, and states.

What is a 'Cartographer'?

A cartographer is a person who designs and creates maps.

Justify why it is important for a map to have a 'North Arrow'.

It is essential because it allows the user to orient the map correctly to the real world, ensuring they travel in the intended direction.

What might happen if a map did not include a scale?

Without a scale, it would be impossible to determine how far away a destination is, making it difficult to plan travel times or understand the size of an area.

Explain why symbols are preferred over writing words for every map feature.

Symbols save space and make the map easier to read at a glance without cluttering the page with text.

Compare the use of 4-figure and 6-figure grid references.

A 4-figure reference identifies a large grid square, while a 6-figure reference is more precise, pinpointing a specific location within that square.

What is the difference between Latitude and Longitude?

Latitude lines run horizontally around the Earth (East to West), while Longitude lines run vertically from the North Pole to the South Pole.

If you were designing a map of our school grounds, what three symbols would you include and why?

(Open-ended) Students should justify their choices based on the most important features, such as the playground, the main entrance, and the library.