

Finn's Navigator's Guide to Map Skills

Grab your compass and join Finn the Dolphin on an expedition to master the art of the map!

- A compass rose is a diagram showing the four cardinal directions: North, South, East, and West. Intermediate points like North-East help us pinpoint exact locations.
- The map legend or key acts as a translator, using symbols and colours to represent real-world features like forests, rivers, and roads.
- Grid references use a combination of numbers and letters to locate specific areas on a map, much like playing a giant game of coordinates.
- Map scale is essential for understanding distance. A scale of 1:25,000 means that 1cm on the map equals 25,000cm in the real world.
- Contour lines are clever markings that show the height and shape of the land. When lines are close together, it indicates a very steep slope.

Did you know? Did you know? The first maps were not drawn on paper! Early explorers carved maps into clay tablets and animal skins to help them find their way across vast lands and uncharted seas.

Key vocabulary: Grid reference · Compass rose · Cartography · Ordnance Survey · Scale · Legend