

Mapping the Great Forest with Finn

Learning objective: To develop map reading skills, including understanding grid references, symbols, and scale.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure you use full sentences for your answers.

Finn the dolphin loves exploring the Earth's surface as much as the deep blue sea. Recently, he helped his friends map the Great Forest. To read their map correctly, you must first look at the legend, which uses symbols to show features like rivers, hills, and dense woodland. If you want to find the giant oak tree, look for the grid reference B4 on the map's edge. The map uses a scale where one centimetre on the paper represents one kilometre in the real world. This helps Finn calculate how long his trek will take. To navigate safely, Finn always checks the north arrow to ensure he is heading in the right direction. He reminds his friends that a map is like a secret code; once you learn the symbols and how to use the grid, you can find your way across any landscape. Whether you are searching for a hidden waterfall or just trying to find the path back to the village, mastering these map skills is the most important tool for any explorer.

Word bank: cartography · grid reference · legend · topographical · scale · coordinates

1. According to the passage, what is the purpose of a map legend? (2 marks)

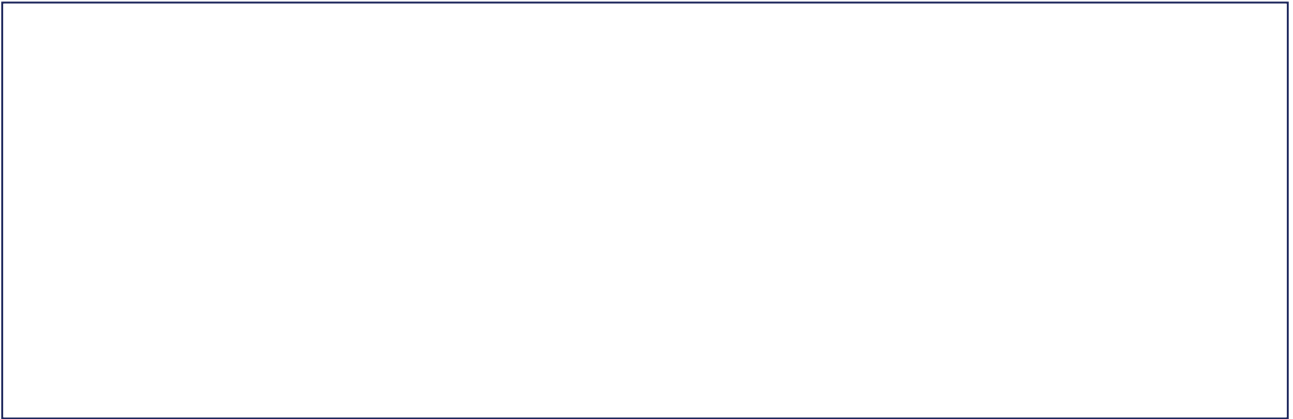
2. What does one centimetre on the map represent in the real world? (1 mark)

3. Why does Finn describe a map as a 'secret code'? (2 marks)

4. How might the north arrow help someone who is lost in the Great Forest? (2 marks)

5. Do you think learning map skills is still useful in a world with digital technology? Give a reason for your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of your own imaginary garden or park. Include a legend with at least four symbols, a north arrow, and a grid overlay with letters and numbers.



Extension challenge: Research what 'contour lines' are on a map and write two sentences explaining how they show us that the land is hilly or steep.