

Finn's Coastal Exploration: Mapping the Shoreline

Learning objective: To use four-figure grid references to identify locations and interpret map features accurately.

Help Finn the dolphin chart the coastline! Use the grid provided on your classroom map. Remember to go 'along the corridor' (eastings) first, then 'up the stairs' (northings) to find your grid square. Fill in the expedition log below to record your geographical findings.

Word bank: Grid reference · Eastings · Northings · Coordinates · Symbol · Key · Topography · Landmark

1. Locate the sandy beach on the map. Write the four-figure grid reference and explain why this location is suitable for a dolphin to observe the shoreline. (3 marks)

2. Find two different human-made features on the grid. Compare and contrast their locations using their grid references. How does their position affect the local environment? (4 marks)

3. Identify a grid square that contains a physical geographical feature (like a hill or a stream). Justify why a map-maker would include a specific symbol for this feature in the key. (3 marks)

4. If a storm were to wash away the wooden pier located at a specific grid reference, what might happen to the local wildlife habitats nearby? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

5. Examine the grid square [Insert Grid Ref]. Describe the patterns you see. Is this area more likely to be urban or rural? Provide evidence from the map to support your answer. (3 marks)

6. Create a new symbol for a 'dolphin sanctuary' and propose a grid reference for it on the map. Explain why you chose this specific location for Finn. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Design your own 6x6 grid map of an imaginary coastline. Include at least four different land-use types (e.g., forest, town, harbour, farmland). Write three challenging grid reference clues for a partner to solve.