

Finn's Cartography Field Notes: Exploring Our Local Area

Learning objective: To develop map skills by identifying key features, understanding symbols, and using grid references to describe a local environment.

Join Finn the dolphin on a land-based expedition! Use this template to create a detailed map profile of a place you know well, such as your school grounds or local park. Use your geographical vocabulary to explain how people use the space.

Word bank: grid reference · compass points · key · aerial view · human features · physical features · scale · topography

1. Location Description: Describe the area you have chosen to map. Is it urban, rural, or coastal? What are its primary functions? (3 marks)

2. Human and Physical Features: List two physical features (natural) and two human features (man-made) found in your area. Explain how they differ. (4 marks)

3. The Map Key: If you were drawing a map of this area, which four symbols would you include in your key and why are they significant? (4 marks)

4. Grid Reference Analysis: Choose one significant landmark in your area. Explain how you would use grid references to help someone find this spot precisely on a map. (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Why is it important for maps to have a consistent scale when representing large areas on a small piece of paper? (3 marks)

6. What might happen if a map of your local area did not include a compass rose? Explain the impact this would have on a traveller. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a town planner. Choose one area of your map and suggest a new 'human feature' to add. Justify your decision: how would this addition benefit the local community, and what impact might it have on the surrounding physical environment?