

Grade 3 Geography Assessment: Mastering Map Skills

Learning objective: To assess pupils' understanding of grid references, symbols, compass directions, and the use of keys in mapping.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of map features to answer. Ensure you use a ruler for any lines and provide full sentences where requested.

Finn the dolphin is helping a group of coastal researchers map a new nature reserve. He has created a map that uses symbols to show where the sand dunes, rock pools, and visitor centres are located. The map uses a grid system to help the researchers find specific locations quickly, and a compass rose to help them navigate the rugged coastline.

Word bank: Compass Rose · Grid Reference · Key · Ordnance Survey · Scale · Latitude · Symbol · Aerial View

1. Explain why a map 'key' is an essential feature for someone using an unfamiliar map. Give an example of a symbol you might find on a map of a town. (2 marks)

2. If you are standing at a grid reference of B2 and you need to travel to D4, describe the direction you must move using the eight points of the compass. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast an aerial photograph with a map. What information can a map provide that a photograph cannot? (3 marks)

4. Finn calculates that 1cm on his map represents 100 metres in real life. If the distance between the rock pools and the visitor center is 5cm on the map, how many metres is this in the real world? (2 marks)

5. Justify why it is important for map makers to include a compass rose on every map. (3 marks)

6. Look at a standard four-figure grid reference. Explain how you locate a specific square on a grid. Why might a six-figure grid reference be more useful for a scientist? (3 marks)

7. Extended Writing: Imagine you are a cartographer designing a map for a new national park. Describe the features you would include to ensure visitors can navigate safely. Explain the importance of scale and symbols in your design. (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a simple map of your school playground. Include a scale bar, a compass rose showing North, and a key with at least four distinct symbols for features like the gate, the climbing frame, and the trees.



Extension challenge: What might happen if a map maker forgot to include a scale on a map of a large country? How would this affect a traveller's ability to plan their journey? Total: /25