

Finn's Grand Map-Reading Expedition

Learning objective: To develop map-reading skills including understanding symbols, keys, and four-figure grid references.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure you use evidence from the text to support your answers.

Finn the dolphin is not just an ocean explorer; he is an expert in cartography. Today, Finn is teaching his friends how to navigate the coastline using a detailed map. He explains that a map is a bird's-eye view of an area, flattened onto paper. To make sense of the landscape, Finn points out the map key. This essential feature uses symbols—small icons or colors—to represent real-world items like forests, churches, or sandy beaches. Without a key, a map would just be a jumble of shapes! Finn then demonstrates how to use four-figure grid references to pinpoint a location. By identifying the easting and northing numbers, his friends can find the exact spot of the hidden treasure cove. He reminds them that the scale is crucial; it tells us how much smaller the map is compared to the actual world. Whether they are trekking through dense woodlands or surveying rocky cliffs, Finn's map-reading skills ensure that no one ever gets lost on an adventure.

Word bank: Cartography · Symbol · Grid reference · Key · Topographical · Scale

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

2. What two pieces of information does Finn use to pinpoint a location using a grid reference? (2 marks)

3. Why might a map be difficult to use if it did not include a scale? (3 marks)

4. Explain why Finn describes a map as a 'bird's-eye view'. (3 marks)

5. Do you agree that map-reading is an essential life skill? Justify your answer using examples from the text. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of your local park or school playground. You must include a 'key' in the corner with at least four unique symbols for features like benches, trees, or paths.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast a paper map with a digital map on a tablet. What might happen if a traveller relied solely on a digital map and the battery failed? Write a short paragraph justifying why traditional map-reading skills remain important in the modern world.