

Finn's Coastal Mapping Expedition

Learning objective: To identify and use grid references, compass points, and map symbols to navigate a coastal area.

Finn the dolphin has discovered an old map of 'Shelly Bay'. Use the map symbols, 4-figure grid references, and compass points to help Finn locate his favorite spots. Look at the grid provided and answer the questions based on the map features.

Word bank: Compass Rose · Grid Reference · Key · Ordnance Survey · Scale · Topography

1. Finn is at the Lighthouse in square B2. If he travels North to the next square, what feature does he find in square B3? (Assume squares are lettered A-D horizontally and numbered 1-4 vertically). (1 mark)

2. The local fishing boat is moored at the harbour in square A4. Using a compass direction, describe how the boat would need to travel to reach the sandy beach located in square C4. (2 marks)

3. Explain why a map key is essential when reading a professional map of a coastal town. (2 marks)

4. If the scale of the map is 1cm representing 1km, and the distance between the Lighthouse (B2) and the Rocky Cliffs (D2) is 4cm, how far is the actual distance in kilometres? (2 marks)

5. Look at the map symbols provided. Why might a mapmaker use a blue wavy line symbol instead of just writing the word 'sea' on the map? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of your local park or school grounds. Include a compass rose in the corner, a map key with at least four symbols (e.g., trees, playground, path, pond), and a scale bar.



Extension challenge: Research what a 6-figure grid reference is. How does adding two extra digits make a map more precise than a 4-figure grid reference?