

Year 5 Geography Assessment: Mastering Grid References

Learning objective: To accurately identify and use four-figure and six-figure grid references to locate geographical features on an Ordnance Survey style map.

Read each question carefully. Use a ruler to help you measure distances on the map if required. Ensure you use the correct format for grid references.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the coastline near the village of Sunny Cove. He has created a grid map for his friends to use. The map shows the sandy beach at 24 35, a lighthouse at 25 36, and a dense forest at 26 34. To be more precise, Finn uses six-figure grid references by dividing each grid square into tenths.

Word bank: four-figure · six-figure · easting · northing · grid line · map symbol · key · coordinate

1. Explain the difference between an 'easting' and a 'northing' when reading a map grid. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. Using the passage, write down the four-figure grid reference for the lighthouse. (1 mark) (1 mark)

3. If Finn is standing at 245 352, describe how he found that specific location within the grid square. (3 marks) (3 marks)

4. Why is it more useful to use a six-figure grid reference rather than a four-figure one when searching for a small object, like a lost backpack, in a large forest? (4 marks) (4 marks)

5. Look at a standard map grid. If you move from 24 35 to 25 35, have you moved east or north? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks) (3 marks)

6. Max the monkey wants to build a treehouse at a location defined by the six-figure reference 254 367. Describe the steps you would take to find this exact spot on a map. (5 marks) (5 marks)

7. Identify two symbols you might expect to see in a map key that would help you navigate the landscape (e.g., a church or a campsite). (2 marks) (2 marks)

8. If a map uses a scale where 1cm = 1km, how far is it in reality between two points that are 5cm apart on the map? (2 marks) (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 3x3 grid. Label the bottom axis (eastings) 10, 11, 12 and the side axis (northings) 20, 21, 22. Place a small star at 11 21 and a small circle at 10.5 20.5.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Imagine you are Finn the dolphin. Write a short guide (approx. 100 words) for Nova the owl explaining why grid references are essential for her stargazing and exploration trips. Include why precision is important.