Mapping the Forest: A Guide to Four-Figure Grid References

Learning objective: To accurately identify and describe locations on a map using four-figure grid references.

Use this writing frame to describe the locations Finn the dolphin found on his coastal map. Remember to use the 'along the corridor, then up the stairs' rule to find your grid squares.

Finn the dolphin has been busy mapping the coastline, and he uses four-figure grid references to ensure no secret cove is ever lost.

Word bank: horizontally · vertically · intersect · grid square · furthermore · consequently · located at · the north-east corner · in the bottom-left

1. Introduction: Describe why grid references are useful for explorers like Finn. Start your paragraph by saying: 'Grid references are an essential tool for map-reading because...' (2 marks)

2. The Method: Explain the steps to finding a four-figure grid reference. Start your paragraph by saying: 'To find the correct square, you must first move along the eastings and then...' (3 marks)

3. Location Analysis: Describe a specific feature on your map (e.g., a lighthouse or a sandy beach) using its grid reference. Start your paragraph by saying: 'The sandy beach is located in grid square [insert number], which is found by...' (3 marks)

4. Comparison: Compare two different locations on your map. Start your paragraph by saying: 'Whilst the rocky cliff is in square 2435, the deep harbour is situated in...' (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise how accurate mapping helps keep explorers safe. Start your paragraph by saying: 'In conclusion, using precise grid references is vital for any adventurer because...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine Finn discovers a hidden treasure. Write a set of three clues using grid references to help a friend find the treasure on your map.