

Year 5 Geography Assessment: Mastering Grid References

Learning objective: To demonstrate proficiency in using four-figure and six-figure grid references to locate and describe features on Ordnance Survey-style maps.

Read each question carefully. Use a ruler to ensure your measurements are precise. For six-figure grid references, remember to divide the grid square into tenths.

Finn the dolphin is studying a map of the coastal region near his home to plan his next expedition. The map features a rocky harbour, a sandy beach, a lighthouse, and a dense forest. To navigate safely, Finn must identify the exact locations of these landmarks using the grid system printed on his chart.

Word bank: Eastings · Northings · Grid square · Four-figure reference · Six-figure reference · Scale · Topographical · Precision

1. Explain the difference between 'Eastings' and 'Northings' when reading a grid reference. Which one do you identify first? (2 marks)

2. If a landmark is located within the grid square 45 22, why is it necessary to use a six-figure grid reference for greater accuracy? (3 marks)

3. Look at the imaginary map segment: The lighthouse sits exactly in the middle of grid square 12 88. Write the six-figure grid reference for this location. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the level of detail provided by a four-figure grid reference versus a six-figure grid reference. In what real-world scenario would a six-figure reference be vital for safety? (4 marks)

5. Justify why cartographers use a standard grid system on maps rather than simply describing locations using landmarks (e.g., 'near the big tree'). (4 marks)

6. Max the monkey is trying to find a treasure chest located at 554 126. If he is currently at 550 120, describe the direction and approximate distance he needs to travel to reach the chest. (5 marks)

7. What might happen if a rescue team was given a four-figure reference instead of a six-figure reference when searching for a lost hiker in a large forest? (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a 4x4 grid. Label the Eastings 10-14 and Northings 50-54. Place an 'X' in grid square 12 52 and a 'Triangle' at the six-figure reference 135 515.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are designing a new national park. Create a map key with five features and assign each a precise six-figure grid reference. Write a short paragraph explaining why your park's layout makes efficient use of the grid system for visitors. Total: /25