

Mastering Map Skills: Grid References with Finn the Dolphin

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

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of map reading. Read the front of the card, attempt to answer, then check your understanding against the definition provided.

What is an Easting?

The vertical lines on a map that measure how far you have travelled east from the origin point.

What is a Northing?

The horizontal lines on a map that measure how far you have travelled north from the origin point.

How do you read a four-figure grid reference?

You identify the square by finding the bottom-left corner, stating the Easting first, then the Northing.

How do you calculate a six-figure grid reference?

You divide the grid square into tenths, identifying the exact location within the square to gain more precision.

Why do we use grid references?

They provide a precise system to locate specific geographical features or points of interest on a map surface.

What is the primary function of an OS map legend?

It provides a key to all symbols and colours used on the map, allowing the user to interpret physical and human geography.

Explain why six-figure grid references are more useful than four-figure ones for a mountain rescue team.

Six-figure references provide greater detail and accuracy, helping rescuers pinpoint an exact location rather than just a general area.

Compare and contrast Eastings and Northings.

Both are essential coordinates for locating points on a grid; Eastings increase from left to right, while Northings increase from bottom to top.

Justify why it is vital to read Eastings before Northings.

It is a universal standard (like coordinates in maths) that ensures everyone reading the map interprets the location identically.

What might happen if a cartographer labelled Northings before Eastings on a new map series?

It would cause significant navigation errors and confusion for anyone using the map, as coordinates would be reversed.

If a landmark is exactly on the line 45, what is its Easting?

The Easting is 45.

Define 'Scale' in the context of map reading.

The ratio of a distance on the map to the corresponding distance on the ground, usually expressed as a fraction or ratio.