

Mapping the Wonders with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To accurately identify and plot 4-figure and 6-figure grid references on an Ordnance Survey style map.

Use your knowledge of map symbols and grid systems to help Finn the Dolphin navigate his coastal adventure. Remember: go along the corridor (eastings) before you go up the stairs (northings).

Finn is mapping the coastline of a secret island. The map is divided into 1km squares. To find a 4-figure reference, identify the bottom-left corner of the square. To find a 6-figure reference, imagine the square is divided into ten smaller segments horizontally and vertically to pinpoint an exact location.

Word bank: Eastings · Northings · Ordnance Survey · Grid square · Coordinate · Scale · Topography

1. Finn spots a lighthouse at the bottom-left corner of grid square 42 15. Write the 4-figure grid reference for this location. (1 mark)

2. Explain why it is essential to follow the 'along the corridor, then up the stairs' rule when reading grid references. What might happen if a map reader reversed these numbers? (2 marks)

3. Finn is at a hidden cove located exactly halfway across grid square 28 34 and three-tenths of the way up from the bottom. Write the 6-figure grid reference for the cove. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast a 4-figure grid reference with a 6-figure grid reference. Why would a scientist mapping rare plants prefer a 6-figure reference? (3 marks)

5. If Finn moves from grid reference 550 220 to 550 225, justify whether he has moved a significant distance. How many metres has he travelled? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 5x5 grid. Label the horizontal axis (eastings) 10 to 14 and the vertical axis (northings) 80 to 84. Place a symbol for a 'shipwreck' at 124 817 and a 'coral reef' at 112 835.



Extension challenge: Design a treasure map for a partner using at least five landmarks. Create a 'key' for your map symbols and write three 6-figure grid references that your partner must solve to find the hidden treasure. Justify why you chose those specific locations for the treasure.