

Mapping Finn's Ocean Expeditions: A Guide to Grid References

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

Use this writing frame to describe the route Finn the dolphin takes through the Coral Archipelago. Ensure you explain how to identify the correct grid square and specify the exact location of landmarks using coordinate precision.

Finn the dolphin glided through the azure waters, carefully checking his map to navigate towards the mysterious Sunken Reef.

Word bank: along the corridor · up the stairs · intersecting · precisely located · furthermore · consequently · horizontal axis · vertical axis · in the bottom-left corner · navigation

1. Introduction: Describe the importance of using grid references for navigation. Start with: Navigating the vast ocean requires precision because... (2 marks)

2. The Methodology: Explain the rules for finding a four-figure grid reference. Start with: To locate a specific square, one must first identify... (3 marks)

3. Precision Mapping: Explain how a six-figure grid reference provides more detail than a four-figure one. Start with: When greater accuracy is required, we divide the square into... (3 marks)

4. Application: Choose a feature on your map and justify its location. Start with: The shipwreck is situated at grid reference... (2 marks)

5. Critical Thinking: Explain why map symbols must be used alongside grid references. Start with: Grid references provide the location, but symbols are essential because... (3 marks)

6. Greater Depth Challenge: Compare and contrast the use of grid references on a paper map versus a digital satellite navigation system. Start with: While both systems provide coordinates, they differ because... (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a challenge for a classmate! Create a map of a fictional island featuring at least six landmarks (e.g., a lighthouse, a mountain, a harbour). Write a set of 'clues' using six-figure grid references that lead your partner to a hidden treasure. Justify why your chosen scale is appropriate for the terrain.