

Year 5 Geography Assessment: Mastering Map Skills

Learning objective: To demonstrate proficiency in interpreting grid references, understanding map symbols, calculating distance using scales, and identifying topographical features.

Read each question carefully. Use a sharp pencil for drawings. Ensure all written answers are clear and use geographical vocabulary. Finn the Dolphin has provided a map key to help you navigate this assessment.

Finn the Dolphin is mapping the coastline near the village of Pebble-on-Sea. He has noted that the village sits at the mouth of a river, protected by a series of steep cliffs to the north. To the west, there is a dense woodland area, and to the south, the deep blue ocean stretches towards the horizon. Finn uses a standard topographical map to help explorers navigate the trails safely.

Word bank: Ordnance Survey · Six-figure grid reference · Contour lines · Scale · Key · Topography · Latitude · Longitude

1. Explain why a 'Key' is an essential component of any map. Provide an example of how a symbol might prevent confusion for a traveller. (2 marks)

2. If a map has a scale of 1:10,000, and the distance between the village post office and the woodland edge is 5cm on the map, calculate the real-life distance in metres. Show your working. (3 marks)

3. Define the term 'contour lines' and explain what they indicate about the steepness of the land. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast a four-figure grid reference with a six-figure grid reference. Why would a hiker prefer a six-figure reference when searching for a specific landmark? (4 marks)

5. Look at the imaginary grid provided. A lighthouse is located at grid reference 425 678. Describe exactly how you would locate this using the 'along the corridor, up the stairs' method. (3 marks)

6. What might happen if a map maker omitted the north point (compass rose) from their map? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

7. Extended Writing Task: You are tasked with creating a new map for a coastal nature reserve. Describe the features you would include to make the map useful for both scientists and tourists. Explain your choices of symbols and explain how you would represent the changing elevation of the terrain. (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch map of a fictional island. Include a compass rose, a simple key with three symbols (a forest, a mountain, and a harbour), and a scale bar representing 1km.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Research the difference between a physical map and a political map. Create a table to justify which type of map would be more effective for a government official planning a new national park versus a student studying global trade routes.