

Mapping the World with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To develop advanced map-reading skills including understanding grid references, scale, and topographical symbols.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of geographical tools. Finn the Dolphin has helped create these to ensure you can navigate any terrain with precision.

What is the purpose of a map 'Key' or 'Legend'?

A key explains the symbols, colours, and lines used on a map to represent real-world features like forests, rivers, or roads.

Explain the difference between a four-figure and a six-figure grid reference.

A four-figure grid reference identifies a specific square on a map, whereas a six-figure reference provides a more precise location within that square, allowing for greater accuracy.

What do contour lines indicate on a topographical map?

Contour lines connect points of equal elevation above sea level; they help map readers visualise the steepness or flatness of the terrain.

If a map has a scale of 1:50,000, what does 2cm on the map represent in reality?

2cm on the map would represent 100,000cm in reality, which is 1,000 metres or 1 kilometre.

What are the four cardinal points and four intercardinal points on a compass rose?

The cardinal points are North, South, East, and West. The intercardinal points are North-East, South-East, South-West, and North-West.

Define 'Latitude' and 'Longitude'.

Latitude lines run horizontally around the Earth measuring distance north or south of the Equator. Longitude lines run vertically from pole to pole measuring distance east or west of the Prime Meridian.

Justify why a cartographer might choose a small-scale map over a large-scale map.

A small-scale map covers a large area with less detail, making it ideal for viewing entire countries or continents, whereas a large-scale map shows a small area with high detail.

What might happen to a hiker's journey if they misinterpret a map's contour lines?

They might unexpectedly encounter a very steep incline or a cliff face, leading to physical exhaustion or a dangerous route choice.

Compare and contrast the use of a digital mapping application versus a traditional paper Ordnance Survey map.

Digital maps offer real-time updates and GPS tracking, while paper maps do not require batteries or signal, making them more reliable in remote wilderness areas.

Explain why the Prime Meridian is a significant geographical line.

It is the line of 0° longitude that divides the Earth into the Eastern and Western Hemispheres and serves as the basis for international time zones.

Describe the function of a 'Compass Rose' on a map.

It provides orientation, showing the relationship between the map's directions and the actual cardinal points on the Earth.

If you are standing at a point where contour lines are very close together, what does this tell you about the land?

It indicates that the land has a steep gradient or slope, as the change in elevation occurs over a very short horizontal distance.