

Finn's Cartography Explorer Log

Learning objective: To develop advanced map-reading skills, including the use of grid references, scale, and symbols to interpret geographical features.

Use this explorer log to analyse a local Ordnance Survey-style map. Finn the dolphin relies on precise mapping to navigate safely, and today you are the lead cartographer! Select a specific area on your map to investigate and complete each section with accuracy.

Word bank: grid reference · topography · scale · contour lines · legend · cardinal points · settlement · latitude · longitude · symbolism

1. Identify a specific landmark using a four-figure grid reference. Justify why this location is significant to the surrounding area. (2 marks)

2. Calculate the approximate distance between two points using the map's scale. Explain the method you used to ensure your measurement is accurate. (3 marks)

3. Examine the symbols on the legend. Compare and contrast how human-made structures are represented differently from natural geographical features. (3 marks)

4. Explain why map makers use contour lines. What might happen if a map of a mountainous region did not include these lines? (2 marks)

5. Choose a settlement on your map. Describe the physical geography of the area and suggest why a community might have chosen to build there historically. (4 marks)

6. Look at the cardinal points (North, South, East, West). If you were to travel from your chosen landmark to the edge of the map, describe the changes in terrain you would encounter. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a new, fictional map of an island that includes a scale bar, a comprehensive legend with original symbols, and a set of contour lines representing a volcano. Write a short paragraph explaining the potential environmental challenges for anyone living on your island based on the physical features you have drawn.