

Mapping the Unknown: An Explorer's Guide with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To use and interpret scale, symbols, and grid references to describe a geographical location.

Use this writing frame to create a detailed report on a fictional landscape. Follow the prompts to describe the features, scale, and grid references as if you were mapping the territory for Finn the Dolphin to explore.

As the sun rose over the uncharted Whispering Archipelago, I carefully unfolded my map to begin the intricate process of mapping the coastline for Finn the Dolphin's next expedition.

Word bank: topographical · cartography · grid reference · equidistant · consequently · furthermore · situated · perspective · scale factor · orientation

1. Introduction: Describe the location you are mapping and explain why it is important for Finn to have an accurate map. Start with: The region I am mapping is... (2 marks)

2. Grid References: Identify two specific landmarks on your map using four-figure grid references. Explain what these symbols represent. Start with: Located at grid reference [x,y], the... (3 marks)

3. Scale and Distance: Explain the scale you have chosen for your map. If 1cm represents 5km, how far would Finn need to travel to get from the mainland to the coral reef? Start with: I have utilised a scale of... (3 marks)

4. Geographical Features: Compare the physical features of the north-eastern quadrant with the south-western quadrant. Start with: A clear contrast exists between... (3 marks)

5. Justification: Why is it vital for a cartographer to include a compass rose and a clear key? Justify the importance of these tools for navigation. Start with: It is essential to include these features because... (3 marks)

6. What might happen if the scale on a map was drawn incorrectly? Explain the potential consequences for an explorer like Finn. Start with: If the scale were inaccurate, the consequences would be... (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a 6-figure grid reference challenge for a partner. Draw a detailed map of a small, imaginary island including a key, a scale bar, and at least five physical features (e.g., mountains, rivers, forests). Write three questions for your partner to answer based on your map, such as 'Calculate the distance between the lighthouse and the cave'.