Geography Assessment: Mapping and Grid References

Learning objective: To identify and use 4-figure grid references to locate physical and human features on a map.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of coordinates and map symbols to answer. You may use the word bank to help you.

Finn the Dolphin is creating a map of his favourite coastal nature reserve. He has drawn a grid over his map to help his friends find important locations. The numbers along the bottom (horizontal) are the Eastings. The numbers up the side (vertical) are the Northings. To find a square, we always go 'along the corridor' first, then 'up the stairs'.

Word bank: Grid reference · Coordinates · Easting · Northing · Key · Symbol · Horizontal · Vertical

1. When writing a 4-figure grid reference, which line do you look at first: the Easting or the Northing? (1 mark)

2. Explain why a map 'key' is essential when using grid references to find specific locations. (2 marks)

3. If a lighthouse is located in grid square 04 12, describe exactly how you would find this square on a map. (3 marks)

4. Look at a map grid where a forest is in square 02 05 and a beach is in square 05 05. Which number stays the same for both locations, and what does this tell you about their position on the map? (4 marks)

5. Finn wants to build a new visitor centre at grid reference 03 04. If the forest is at 03 05 and the beach is at 03 03, explain why 03 04 is a good location to connect these two areas. (5 marks)

6. Why do we use grid references instead of just describing a place as 'near the big tree'? (5 marks)

7. True or False: The Northing line is the horizontal line at the bottom of the map. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a 4x4 grid. Label the bottom numbers 01, 02, 03, 04 and the side numbers 01, 02, 03, 04. Draw a small mountain in square 02 03 and a small boat in square 04 01.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an explorer like Finn. Write a short paragraph explaining how you would guide a friend to a hidden treasure chest if you only had the grid reference 02 02. Total: /25