Exploring the World with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To understand and use map symbols, keys, and the four cardinal compass points to navigate.

Help Finn the Dolphin navigate his way around the coastal town of Pebble Bay. Use your knowledge of map features to answer the questions below.

Finn the Dolphin is planning a trip to Pebble Bay. He has a map showing the sandy beach, the lighthouse, the local park, and the town shops. The map includes a compass rose to show directions and a key to explain what the different shapes and pictures represent.

Word bank: Compass rose · Key · Symbol · North · South · East · West · Scale

1. Finn is currently at the beach. If he needs to swim to the lighthouse which is located at the top of the map, which compass direction is he heading towards? (1 mark)

2. What is the purpose of a map key? Explain why it is important when looking at a map of a new town. (2 marks)

3. If a shop costs £15 to visit for a guided tour and Finn has £20, how much change would he have left? How might a map help him find the shortest route to the shop to save time? (3 marks)

4. Look at a standard compass rose. Name the four cardinal points in clockwise order, starting with North. (2 marks)

5. Why do map makers use symbols instead of writing the full name of a building or feature on the map? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a simple map of your journey from your front door to your school gate. Include at least three symbols (like a tree for a park or a square for a house) and create a key in the corner to explain what they are.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an explorer like Finn. Write three instructions for a friend to find a 'hidden treasure' in your classroom using compass directions (e.g., 'Take two steps North, then turn East').