Mapping the Expedition: Grid References

Learning objective: To use four-figure grid references to locate and place geographical features on a map.

Follow the steps below to create your own map of Finn the Dolphin's coastal research area. Use a ruler to ensure your grid lines are straight and equal in size.

Draw: Create a clear, top-down map on a grid. Use a sharp pencil to draw a 6x6 grid. Style your map as an explorer's chart: include a compass rose in the corner, symbols for the features (like a small tree for the forest or a triangle for the lighthouse), and clear, neat labels. Use a blue pencil for water and green for land.

Label words: Estuary · Lighthouse · Sand dunes · Research station · Cliff edge · Forest · North point

Steps:

1. Draw a 6x6 grid in the centre of your page. Label the vertical lines 01 to 06 and the horizontal lines 40 to 45.
2. Place the Research Station in grid square 02, 42. Label it clearly.
3. Draw a lighthouse in grid square 05, 44. Why is a grid reference useful for a sailor?
4. Create a symbol for a forest and place it in grid square 01, 40. Write the four-figure grid reference for the forest.
5. If Finn the Dolphin swims from the Research Station (02, 42) to the Lighthouse (05, 44), how many

squares east and how many squares north has he travelled?