Finn’s Explorer Map: Mastering Grid References

Learning objective: To identify and use grid references to locate features on a map.

Finn the dolphin needs your help to map the local coastline! Look at the provided grid map. Use the horizontal axis (letters) and the vertical axis (numbers) to give the correct grid references for the landmarks Finn has discovered. Write your answers clearly and explain how you found them.

Word bank: grid reference · horizontal · vertical · axis · coordinate · location · map key

1. Identify the grid reference for the Sandy Cove: Look at the letter on the bottom axis and the number on the side axis. Write the coordinate here. (2 marks)

2. Locate the Lighthouse: Find the lighthouse on the map and write its grid reference. Why is it important to check the horizontal axis first? (3 marks)

3. Hidden Treasure: If Finn hides a shell at grid reference B3, describe where that would be on the map. What features are nearby? (3 marks)

4. Mapping a new route: If you wanted to travel from A1 to C4, what squares would you pass through? List the grid references. (3 marks)

5. Reflective Thinking: Why do explorers and geographers use grid references instead of just pointing at a map? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Design your own map of a mythical island. Draw five landmarks (like a mountain or a forest) and create a list of grid references for a partner to solve.