Finn’s Coastal Mapping Challenge

Learning objective: To accurately identify and use four-figure and six-figure grid references to locate landmarks on a map.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the coastline to help his friends find their way. Look at the provided 10x10 grid map. Each square represents 1km by 1km. Use your knowledge of grid references to find the locations. Remember the golden rule: 'Along the corridor and up the stairs!' For six-figure grid references, imagine each grid square is divided into tenths.

Word bank: Easting · Northing · Coordinate · Grid square · Landmark · Scale

1. Finn spots a lighthouse at grid reference 42, 65. Based on our 10x10 map grid, describe the location of this landmark using the terms 'Easting' and 'Northing'. (2 marks)

2. There is a shipwreck located at 424, 652. Explain why a six-figure grid reference is more precise than a four-figure grid reference. (2 marks)

3. If you are at the harbour at 45, 68 and move 2km East and 1km North, what is your new four-figure grid reference? (2 marks)

4. Look at the map square 43, 66. If the local village is exactly in the middle of this square, what would be the six-figure grid reference? (2 marks)

5. True or False: When reading a grid reference, you always start with the vertical line (Northing) before the horizontal line (Easting). Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 5x5 grid. Place a palm tree at 02, 13 and a treasure chest at 04, 11. Label the Eastings (00-05) and Northings (10-15) on the axes.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are designing a new nature reserve. Create a map with 5 landmarks and write a set of 5 clues using six-figure grid references for a partner to solve.