Mapping the Wonders of the World with Finn

Learning objective: To accurately use four-figure grid references, map symbols, and scale to interpret geographical features.

Use your knowledge of OS map conventions to answer the following questions. Ensure you provide clear explanations for your reasoning.

Finn the dolphin is helping an explorer map a new coastal region. The map uses a scale of 1:25,000, meaning 1cm on the map represents 250 metres in the real world. The map is covered in a grid system to help locate features like lighthouses, woodlands, and steep cliffs.

Word bank: Grid reference · Scale · Contour lines · Key · Compass rose · Topography · Ordnance Survey

1. Finn spots a lighthouse located at grid reference 12 45. If you move one square to the east and two squares to the north, what is your new four-figure grid reference? (2 marks)

2. On the map, the distance between the sandy beach and the old harbour is 4cm. Using the scale 1:25,000, calculate the actual distance in metres. (2 marks)

3. Explain why map makers include a 'key' on every map. Why is it important for the symbols to be standardised? (2 marks)

4. If you are looking at a map and see contour lines that are very close together, what does this tell you about the shape of the land in that area? (2 marks)

5. Finn is at a point on the map and needs to travel North-West to reach a hidden cove. Describe how he would use a compass rose to ensure he is heading in the correct direction. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a simple map of an imaginary island. Include a compass rose, at least three different features (like a forest, a mountain, and a river), and create a key in the corner to explain your map symbols.

Extension challenge: Research what a six-figure grid reference adds to a map that a four-figure grid reference cannot provide. Explain why a search and rescue team would prefer the six-figure version.