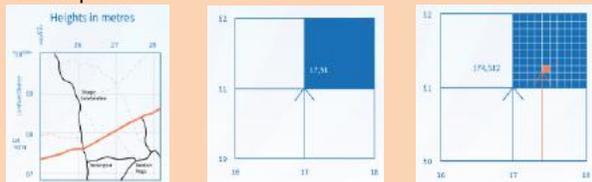


Geography – Geographical and Map Skills – knowledge organiser

What is a grid?

Look closely at your Ordnance Survey map and you will see that it is divided into a series of squares. Together, these squares are known as a grid and they help you to locate the features within them. Every square on your Ordnance Survey map is the same as a square kilometre (1 000 000 square metres or 1km² of the actual landscape).



Four-figure grid references

Where grid lines meet in the left hand corner of a square, you can put these two numbers together to form a four-figure grid reference.

It's important to remember that the easting comes before the northing in a grid reference.

You could try thinking of it as moving first along a corridor and then up the stairs to find the right numbers.

Six-figure grid references

Sometimes we need to be more accurate with the grid references we give. The grid squares on your Ordnance Survey map are all one kilometre across, which makes it easier to divide them into ten in your head.

By adding an extra number (between 1 and 10) to the easting and the northing, you'll come up with a six-figure reference that pinpoints a place to within 100 metres on the map.

Using a compass

A compass is an important tool for map readers. It tells us which way is north and where to find east, south, and west. Together, these are known as the four cardinal points of the compass. Ordnance Survey maps are always printed with north facing the top.

Helpful phrases

To help you remember where the points of the compass are, you could try learning a phrase like;

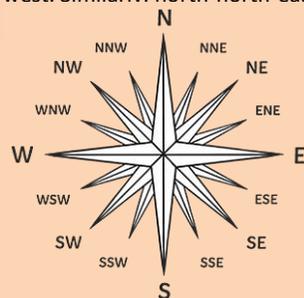
- Nobody Ever Swallows Whales or
- Naughty Elephants Squirt Water.

The 8-point compass

You can make your compass more accurate by adding more points to it. By drawing a line in between each of the cardinal points, you can create an eight-point compass that shows the directions for north-east (NE), south-east (SE), south-west (SW) and north-west (NW).

The 16-point compass

For even more accurate readings, some compasses add eight more points to make a total of sixteen. Each of these points also has a direction. West-south-west (WSW) points to a direction west of south-west. Similarly, north-north-east (NNE) points north of north-east.



Where are you?

You are likely to live in either the British Isles, the United Kingdom, Great Britain, or possibly all three!



Great Britain Made up of England, Scotland and Wales

United Kingdom Made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

British Isles Made up of all the main and offshore islands of Great Britain and Ireland, including the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

What Is A Map?

For hundreds of years maps have helped people travel from one place to another. Maps are drawings of actual landscapes and features that use lines and symbols to represent real-life objects like roads, fields and buildings.

There are many different types of maps, from simple sketch maps that you can draw yourself to the very detailed Ordnance Survey maps of Great Britain.



Why do maps use symbols?

Maps often use symbols instead of words to label real-life features and make the maps clearer. With so many features on a map, there would not be enough space to write everything down in words.

Symbols can be small pictures, letters, lines or coloured areas to show features like campsites, youth hostels or bus stations. If you look closely at a map, you will see that it is covered in symbols. There will usually be a key next to the map to tell you what the symbols mean.

What do all the symbols mean?

Here's a selection of the symbols you will find on Ordnance survey maps.

We use map symbols to give a universal picture of where different features are located.

They are useful as they do not need us to add a picture of a place – making maps clearer and easier to read.

You can see all map symbols at the link here:

https://www.geographypods.com/uploads/7/6/2/2/7622863/os_symbols_sheet.pdf



How do we show height on maps?

Like any piece of paper, maps are flat, but the land they cover is often quite hilly. Contour lines are a map's way of showing how high the land is. They join together points of equal height and never cross.

When contour lines appear close together, this means the land slopes sharply and would be steep to climb. The further apart the contour lines are, the flatter the land will be.

If you take some time to look at the contour lines on a map, you will soon get an idea in your mind of what the land actually looks like in real life.

