



How Do I Read Maps? *KS2 Geography at St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School*

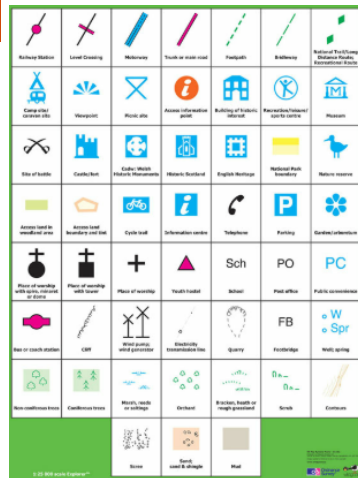
Key Vocabulary

- Mental Map
- Aerial Map
- Ordnance Survey
- Direction
- Symbols
- Key/legend
- Grid Reference
- Scale
- Mile
- Kilometre
- Longitude
- Latitude
- Compass
- Contour

Map Symbols

Instead of using words, maps use symbols to label real-life features and make them clearer.

Symbols can be small pictures, letters, lines or coloured areas to show features like campsites, youth hostels or bus stations.

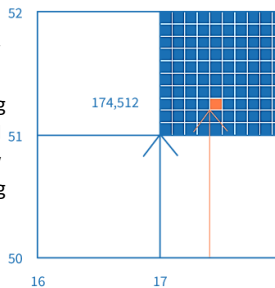
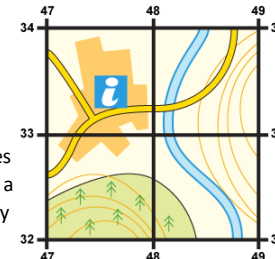


4 and 6 Figure Grid References

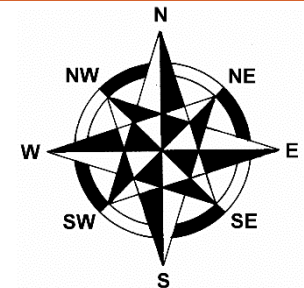
A grid of squares is often placed over a map to help the map-reader to locate a place on the map. The **horizontal** lines crossing the map are called **northings**. They are numbered and the numbers increase to the north. The **vertical** lines crossing the map are called **eastings**, as the numbers increase in an easterly direction.

To work out the grid reference, remember **'Along the corridor and up the stairs.'**

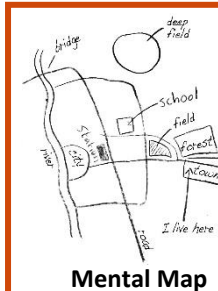
Six-figure grid references can be used to pinpoint a location more accurately than a four-figure grid reference. Once you have found your first two digits, split the box into 10 parts (both vertically and horizontally). How many you imagine going across will be your third 'northing' number; how many you imagine going up will be your 'northings' number.



Compass Directions



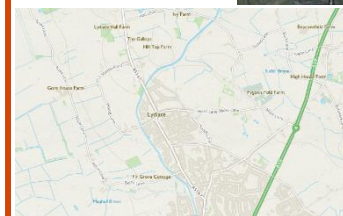
UK Physical Geography



Mental Map



Aerial Map

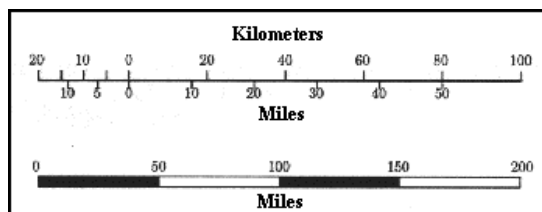
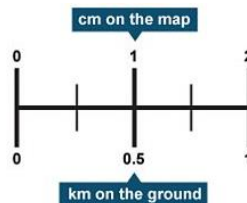


OS Map

Scale on Maps

Most maps have a scale. These help us to work out distances on maps. This is given by the scale statement (e.g. 1:25,000) and/or by showing a scale bar.

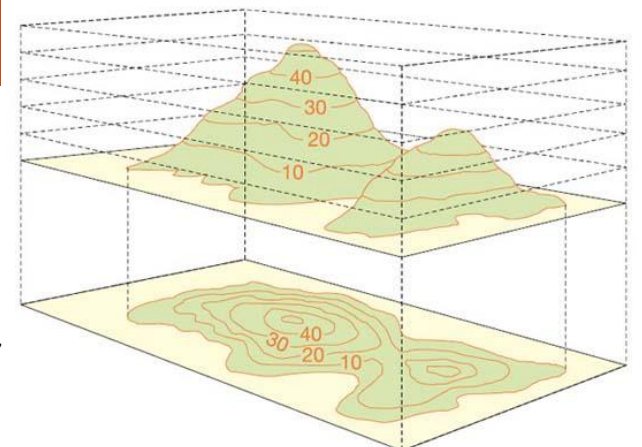
The scale shows how much bigger the real world is than the map. If the scale is 1:50,000, it means that the map is 50,000 times smaller than the real world. For example, every 1cm on the map represents 50,000cm in the real world.



Height on Maps, using contour lines

Height on maps refers to how high the land is above sea level. The shape of the ground is usually shown by brown contour lines. A contour is a line drawn on a map that joins points of equal height above sea level. The contour lines usually show land increasing by 5 or 10 metres.

When the contour lines are close together, it shows steep land; when the contour lines are spread out, the land is much flatter.



BBC Geography Online Learning Resources

Contours, Keys and Symbols

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvsfr82/articles/zjdkhbk>



Maps

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvsfr82/articles/zdk46v4>

