

Maps and symbols: A map is a two-dimensional drawing of an area. Maps help us to understand what places are like and how to plot routes. Maps should have a title, scale, north arrow, and a key. Symbols help us to include lots of detail on maps that are drawn to scale. They include simple images, colours, letters and abbreviations.

Grid references

A grid of squares helps the map-reader to locate a place. The horizontal lines crossing the map from one side to the other are called northings. They are numbered – the numbers increase to the north. The vertical lines crossing the map from top to bottom are called eastings as the numbers increase in an easterly direction.

Things to remember:

On an OS map each grid square is 1 km x 1 km or 1 sq. km.

When you give a grid reference, always give the easting first... "Along the corridor and up the stairs".

Four-figure grid references can be used to pinpoint a location to within a square measuring 1 sq. km. To find the number of the square:

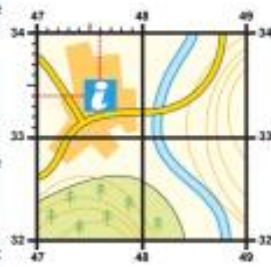
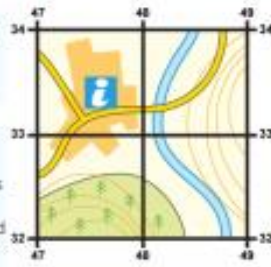
Start at the left-hand side of the map and go east until you get to the easting crossing through the bottom-left-hand corner of the square you want. Write this number down.

Move north until you get to the northing crossing the bottom-left-hand corner of the square you want. Look at the number of this grid line and add it to the two-digit number you already have. This is your four-figure grid reference. In this case, the tourist information office is in grid square 4733.

Sometimes it is necessary to be even more accurate. In this case you can imagine that each grid is divided into 100 tiny squares. The distance between one grid line and the next is divided into tenths.

First, find the four-figure grid reference but leave a space after the first two digits. When you get to the easting at the left-hand side of the grid square you want, keep moving east and estimate or measure how many tenths across your symbol lies. Write this number after the first two digits.

Next, move north from the bottom-left-hand corner of your grid square and estimate how many tenths your symbol is from this point. Put them together to create a six figure grid reference. In this instance, the tourist information office is located at 474233.



Key Words and Meanings

Equator: Is halfway between north and south poles.

A key: A set of symbols and their meanings.

Map: A diagram of a place or region from above, usually drawn to scale.

Longitude: How far East or West a place is from the **Prime Meridian Line**.

Latitude: This says how far north or south somewhere is from the equator.

Relief: The physical shape of the land.

Physical Geography: natural features and events on the earth, e.g. weather and mountains.

Human Geography: Where and how people live, e.g. population and settlement.

Direction: shown on a map by the points of the compass.

Environment: The natural or physical surroundings where people, plants and animals live.

Ordnance Survey: The official government organisation responsible for producing maps in the UK.

Scale: The link between the distance on a map and its real distance on the ground.

Latitude and longitude

Lines of latitude and longitude are used to locate places accurately on the Earth's surface.

Lines of latitude circle the Earth in an east-west direction. They are parallel. Lines of longitude run from the top of the Earth to the bottom. They are not parallel as lines of latitude are – they meet at a point at the north and south poles and are called meridians. They divide the Earth into segments, like an orange.

Direction

Try to remember the main compass points by using a mnemonic, e.g. **Never Eat Shredded Wheat** - North East South West



Useful websites: <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone/map-skills>

<http://www.geographypods.com/map-skills.html#>

Very challenging - high level

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/z6j6fq8/revision/1>