

St Austin's R.C. Primary School - Geography

Topic: Islands mapping skills

Year: 6

What is a map?

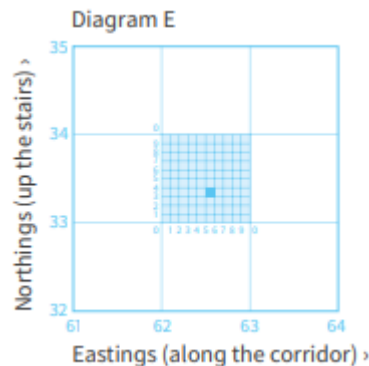
A map is simply a drawing or picture (in 2D) of a landscape or area of a country (in 3D). It could be anything from a sketch map for a visitor to find your school to a detailed map of a town centre or mountain range. Using a map you can visualise in your mind what the place looks like that you are going to, and you can see what landmarks and features you will pass on the way to your destination. Maps mean you know what to expect, and they help you to know you are going in the right direction to arrive at your destination safely and quickly.

Key Skills

- To identify lines of latitude and longitude and world time zones.
- To identify the position of the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.
- To understand how coastal features are formed
- To identify coastal features of the UK and how they have changed.
- To find information in an atlas using the index.
- To use a key to describe the features on an OS map.
- To use the eight compass points to describe routes on a map.
- To use four or six-figure grid references to locate places on a map.
- To plan a journey using the 8
- Compass points and 4/6-figure grid references.

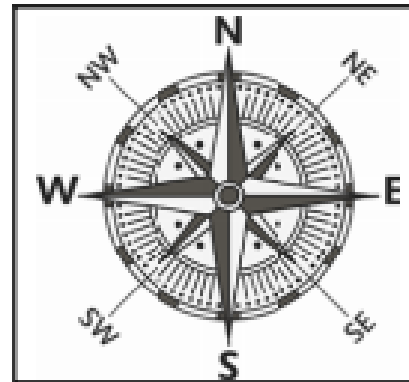
Grid references

If you want to pinpoint an exact place on a map, such as your own house, you will need to use a six-figure grid reference. First find the four-figure grid reference for the square and write it down with a space after each set of numbers, like this: 62_ 33_ Now imagine this square is divided up into 100 tiny squares with 10 squares along each side. Still remembering to go along the corridor and up the stairs, work out the extra numbers you need and put them into your four-figure grid reference like this in diagram E: 625 333.



Compass points

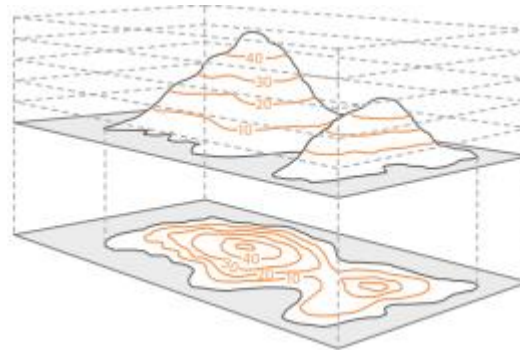
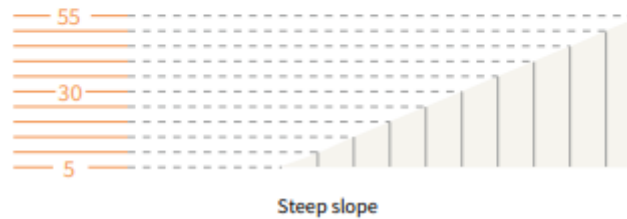
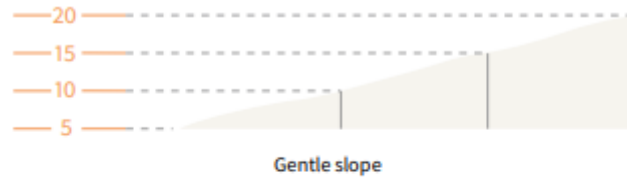
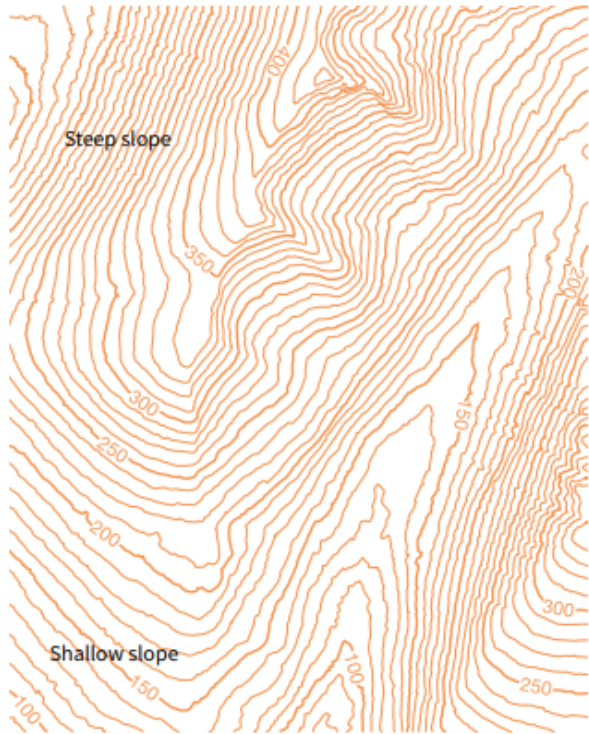
The compass can be split into 8 points as seen below.



Ordnance survey maps

Maps, such as the ordnance survey map, use useful information to help you to read them.

Contour lines



Key vocabulary

Grid reference – the numbers used to locate a place on a map

Scale – the amount which a map has been reduced. This number can be used to work out distances between points.

Contour line – a line used on a map to show slopes.

Symbols – pictures or initials used to represent an item on a map

Compass points – points used to indicate direction

Continents – a large area of land. There are 7 continents: Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica and Australia,

Archipelago – a chain of islands

Cays (or, keys) – small, sandy islands that have been formed on top of coral reefs; the Florida Keys are an example of this

Continental shelf – extra land around continents that's completely underwater

Islets – small islands

Tectonic plates – large pieces of rock that make up the Earth's surface

Ordnance survey maps

Symbols

ROADS AND PATHS Not necessarily rights of way

	Service area
	Junction number
	Motorway
	Dual carriageway
	Main road
	Secondary road
	Narrow road with passing places
	Road under construction
	Road generally more than 4 m wide
	Road generally less than 4 m wide
	Other road, drive or track, fenced and unfenced
	Gradient: steeper than 20% (1 in 5); 14% (1 in 7) to 20% (1 in 5)
	Ferry; Ferry P - passenger only
	Path

GENERAL FEATURES

+	Place of worship		Gravel pit		Sand pit
Current or former place of worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> with tower with spire, minaret or dome 		Building; important building		Glasshouse
	Youth hostel		Bunkhouse/camping barn/other hostel		Bus or coach station
	Lighthouse; disused lighthouse; beacon		Triangulation pillar; mast		Windmill, with or without sails
	Wind pump; wind turbine		Electricity transmission line		Slopes
	Gravel pit		Sand pit		Other pit or quarry
	Landfill site or slag/spoil heap	BP/BS	Boundary post/stone	CG	Cattle grid
CH	Clubhouse	FB	Footbridge	MP; MS	Milepost ; milestone
Mon	Monument	PO	Post office	Pol Sta	Police station
Sch	School	TH	Town hall	NTL	Normal tidal limit
-W; Spr	Well; spring				

Islands

What is an island? A piece of land with water all around it. They vary in size from small to large. An island is anything which is smaller than a continent. There are only 7 continents in the world but thousands of islands.

How are islands formed?

The movement of tectonic plates causes islands to be formed. Some islands used to be part of continents, but broke off or are now visible because of the land joining them to the continent washing away. Continental islands include barrier islands that run parallel to the coastline of a continent, islands that form on top of coral reefs, or islands that look like they're part of the mainland when the tide is out but are surrounded by water when the tide is in (tidal islands). Other islands form because of the pile of ash and lava that has built up from underwater volcanic eruptions.

There are two main types of islands:

- Continental – these used to be part of a continent , and are attached to the continental shelf (under the water) ; they are always near continents;
- Oceanic – these form because of underwater volcanoes that have erupted enough times to go to rise above the water