



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.

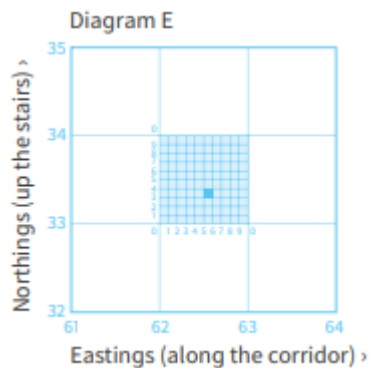
Grid references

We have used 4-figure grid references before to locate places.

6-figure grid references use the same idea but break each square down further into 10 extra horizontal readings and ten extra vertical readings.

We then have 100 squares in each original square.

We use 6-figure grid references when we want to locate somewhere very specific on a map.

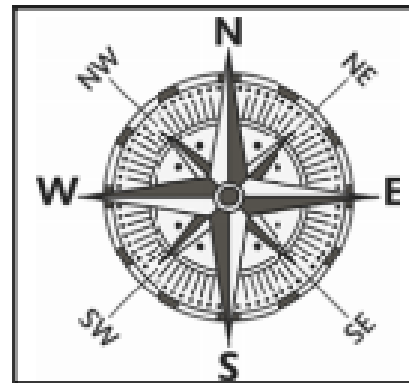


Islands

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.

Compass points

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









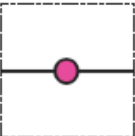


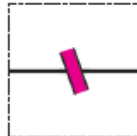





How are islands formed?

There are two types of islands:

- Continental which used to be part of a continent. Tectonic plates move and parts of the land break away.
- Oceanic – formed when underwater volcanoes erupt enough times to form land above the water line.

Ordnance survey maps

Maps, such as the ordnance survey map, use useful information to help you to read them. Here are some of the key symbols you might see on an ordnance survey map.

nature reserve 	castle 	national boundary line 	theme/pleasure park 	visitor's centre 
camp site 	railway station 	place of worship 	main road 	level crossing 
cycle trail 	motorway 	wind turbine 	multiple track railway line 	picnic site 

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.

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,

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