

# Y3 Knowledge Organiser Geography: Mapping

## What is a map?

A map is a **two-dimensional** drawing of an **area**. Maps can show the countryside, a town, a country or even the whole world! They are used to help plan routes from one place to another, or to find certain features such as castles or hills.

Different types of map are used for different things depending on whether you are walking, driving or even flying somewhere. Maps can be on paper or on a mobile phone, tablet or computer. To show the Earth on a flat map we need to peel the surface of the globe and flatten it out.

## Symbols and contours

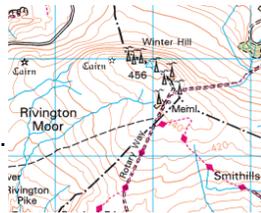
Symbols are generally the same on most types of map. For example, buildings or tourist attractions are shown with blue symbols.



Different types of roads are shown in different colours - blue for a motorway, red for a main road and yellow or orange for narrower roads. Dotted green lines are usually used to show footpaths.



Some maps contain brown **contour** lines. These are lines that show high and low areas of land. When they are close together it means the hill or mountain is steep. When they are far apart it means the land is gently sloping, or undulating.



## Map reading

To be able to understand maps, it is important to have map-reading skills. Maps are usually too small to contain lots of writing so instead there are **symbols**. There is usually a **key** at the side of the map which explains what the symbols mean.

Most maps will have a **compass** rose placed in the corner. It shows the direction of North, East, South and West. A compass points north-south on a map.



## How to use an atlas

An **atlas** is a book of maps that tell us about different parts of the world.

### What Can an Atlas Show Us?

Most maps in atlases show countries, roads, or physical features like rivers and mountains.

### Reading an Atlas

Atlases have a table of contents in the front of the book and an index at the end of the book. The index, which is in alphabetical order, helps you find the page for specific information.

Bolton	town	18	C3	53.5769N	2.4282W
Place Name	City or town	Page	Square	Latitude	Longitude

## Key Vocab

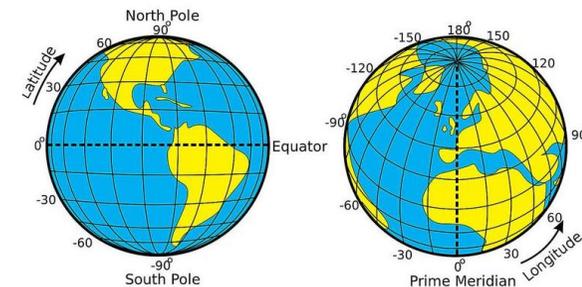
<b>Atlas</b>	A book of maps
<b>Lines of latitude and longitude</b>	A system of lines used to describe the location of any place on Earth
<b>Equator</b>	An imaginary circle around the middle of the Earth
<b>Compass</b>	A tool for finding direction
<b>Eastings</b>	The horizontal lines on a map
<b>Northings</b>	The vertical lines on a map
<b>Contour lines</b>	Lines that show high and low areas of land on a map
<b>Undulating</b>	Something that undulates has gentle curves or slopes

## What is latitude and longitude?

To help locate where a place is in the world, people use imaginary lines:

To find out how far north or south a place is, **lines of latitude** are used. These lines run parallel to the **Equator**.

To find out how far east or west a place is, **lines of longitude** are used. These lines run from the top of the Earth to the bottom.



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## Ordnance Survey Maps

Ordnance Survey maps were first made for the military in the 1700s, but it wasn't until the early 20th century that they started work on the maps we might recognise today.

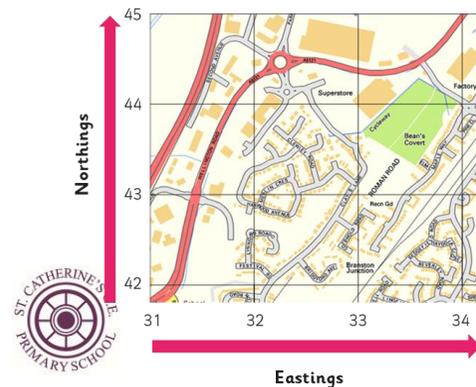
Your map is criss-crossed with lots of horizontal and vertical lines. This creates lots of squares, known as a grid. Using the grid and squares helps to narrow the area to search – making it easier to locate features on the map! On an Ordnance Survey map, each square represents the same size area: 1 square km (1km<sup>2</sup>).

## Eastings and Northings

Have you ever looked at co-ordinates in Maths? This is very similar! All the grid lines are numbered to help find specific areas on the map.

**Eastings** are the numbers that run from left to right on the map.

**Northings** run from south to north.



## Four Figure Grid References

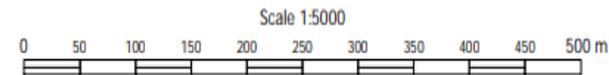
Using the 2 digits of the easting and the 2 digits of the northing creates a **four-figure grid reference**. This is the reference for the bottom left corner of a square on the map. This makes it easier to search the map for features.

**Remember!** Always start with the eastings first (try using the phrase 'along the corridor and up the stairs' to get the right order).

Our school is on the map below (33,10)

## Scale Bar

Maps have scale bars, usually at the bottom. These can be used to estimate distance



Digimap for Schools

