

A. Key terms for skills unit	
Key word	Definition
contour lines	When a contour line is drawn on a map it represents a given elevation.
relief	The highest and lowest elevation points in an area.
scale	The ratio of a distance on the map to the corresponding distance on the ground.
symbol	A character, letter, or similar graphic representation used on a map to indicate some object or characteristic
compass	An instrument containing a magnetized pointer which shows the direction of magnetic north and bearings from it.
latitude	Distance of a place north or south of the earth's equator.
longitude	Distance of a place east or west of the earth's meridian

B. Giving directions

Compass Directions

When giving directions we must use the compass; North, South, East and West.

C. Lines of latitude and longitude

Lines of latitude and longitude

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. Lines of latitude circle the Earth in an east-west direction. They are parallel.

E. Contour lines

Contour lines

Contour lines next to each other will represent different elevations. The closer the contour lines are to each other, the steeper the slope of the land.

D. Giving 4 and 6 figure grid references

Grid reference

All maps contain grid lines which are useful in finding exact places and locations. People use grid lines to find where they want to for example finding roads, museums and other places of interest. In 4-figure grid references 4 digits are used, however if we want to go into more detail and give the exact location of the church on the terrain, we use the 6-figure grid references

4 figure

Four-figure grid references
Each square has a grid reference which you get by putting together the numbers of the easting and northing that cross in its bottom left hand corner.

6 figure

Six-figure grid references
In your head, you should be able to divide all sides of the square into ten equal sections. By doing this, you can pinpoint locations within the square - these are called six-figure grid references.

E. Map symbols

Map symbols

Every map is accompanied by a legend or key. The Key is essential since it contains what each symbol on the map stands for. Such symbols may be drawings, letters, lines, shortened words or coloured areas. Most map symbols are conventional signs as they are understood by everyone around the world; for example a lighthouse and church.