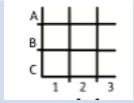
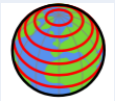
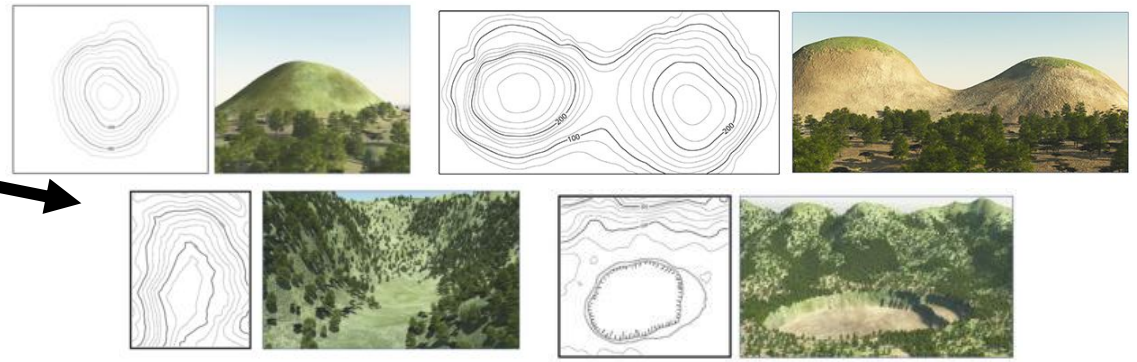
Year 5 Knowledge Organiser Geography – Orienteering

Key Vocabulary

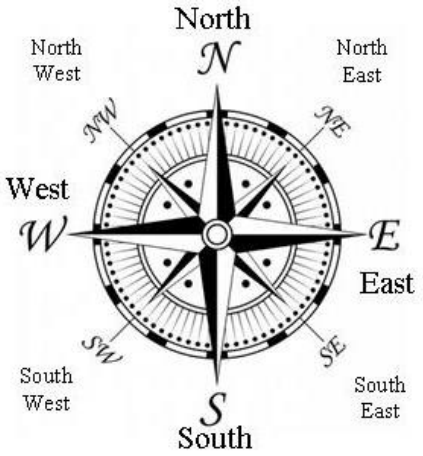
contour lines		Lines on a map that show how high or low the land is. If the lines are close together, the land is steep. If they're far apart, the land is flat.
Ordnance Survey (OS Map)		A map that shows lots of details about the land, like roads, rivers, hills, and buildings. It helps people find their way around the UK.
grid reference		A set of numbers and letters that help you find a place on a map, like giving directions using a secret code!
latitude		Imaginary lines that go across the Earth from side to side. They help us know how far north or south a place is.
longitude		Imaginary lines that go up and down the Earth. They help us know how far east or west a place is.
navigation		Finding your way from one place to another, using a map, compass, or GPS.
landmark		A building or natural feature that is easy to see and helps you know where you are, like a church, a statue or a big hill.
orientation		Knowing which way you are facing or which direction you need to go. Maps help with this!
urban planning		Making plans for how towns and cities should be built, including where to put homes, parks, roads and shops.
land use		How people use different parts of land – for example, for farming, building houses, making parks or growing forests.
conservation		Looking after nature and the environment so that animals, plants and places are protected for the future.
topography		The shape of the land – like hills, valleys, rivers, and flat areas. It shows what the land looks like from above.

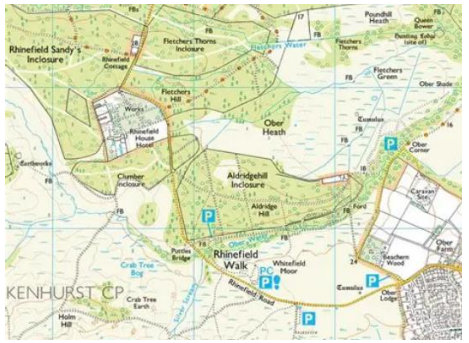


Key Knowledge

Maps are used to help people understand what an area of land is like. They also help people to navigate from one place to another. Many maps have symbols, grid references and contour lines. A compass is also used to help with navigation.

A 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 a map. On OS maps, each square represents 1 square km (1km²).





An OS Map example

Key knowledge

Digital maps are maps that you access from a computer or mobile. On Google Earth, you can see different parts of the world. It can also be used to plan routes.

Maps are used for city planning. For example, urban planning includes housing development maps, transport maps.
Maps are also used for conservation. Environmental maps include protecting green spaces and managing flood zones.