Maps Atlases

KS2 Geography · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

What does a map key (or legend) do?

Step 1 · Think about how symbols on a map get explained

It tells you what each symbol on the map means

Answer: A map key explains what each symbol on a map represents

Check: Without a key, symbols on a map wouldn't make sense to the reader.

2. Now try one with the steps

Why do maps use compass directions (N, S, E, W) instead of just 'left' and 'right'?

Step 1 · Think about how 'left' and 'right' can be confusing

Step 2 · Compass directions are fixed and don't change

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. What do we call the part of a map that explains its symbols?

2. Which compass direction is opposite to North?

3. Which direction is opposite to East?

4. What is an atlas?

5. Why might a treasure map need a scale (like '1cm = 1km')?

6. Explain why grid references (like B4) are useful for finding a location on a map.

4. Before you hand it in

Guessing what a map symbol means instead of checking the key.
Always check the map's key before assuming what a symbol represents.

Using 'left' and 'right' instead of compass directions when describing a route on a map.
Use North, South, East and West for directions that everyone understands the same way.