

## 1. Why are Atlas' useful?

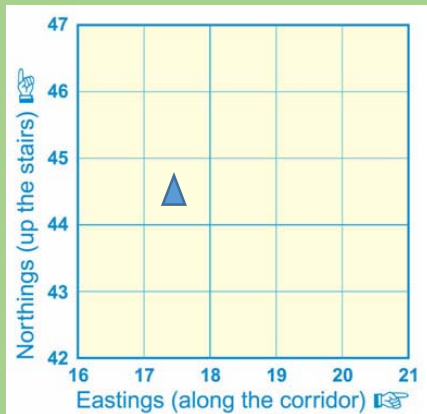
Atlases tell you the following information:

- Location of the continents
- Location of countries
- Location of cities
- Lines of latitude and longitude
- Climate zones
- Social, environmental and Economic statistics
- Location of rivers, mountain ranges, oceans, seas, lakes, tectonic plate boundaries and many more physical features

## 2. Ordnance Survey (OS) Maps

OS maps are detailed maps of specific locations. They give fine details for example footpaths, landmarks, height of the land as well as settlements and features of the landscape such as woodland and river and lakes. They are VERY useful for finding your way on foot.

### 5a. OS Map 4-Figure Grid References



If you look closely at an OS map, you will see that it is covered in a light blue grid with numbers along each side (like the image above). These numbers are used to create grid references to help people accurately locate specific places or features on an OS map. To accurately locate the triangle symbol above you would first look at the Eastings along the bottom of the map and track along to the number 17 and put your finger on it. Secondly, you would look at the Northings up the side, track up to 44, and place a finger from your other hand on it. Bring your fingers together and they should meet at the bottom left hand corner of the grid square containing the triangle symbol. The grid reference you would write down to locate the triangle is therefore 17,44. Remember to have a look in your book to remind you of when you did this in class!

# Map Skills

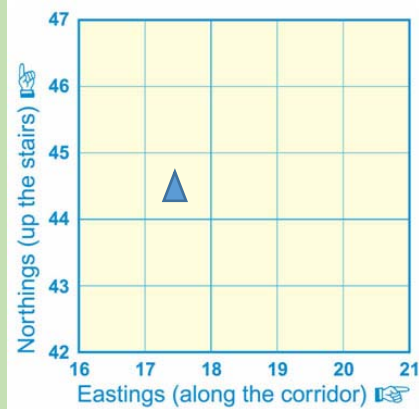
## Memory Organiser

### 3. OS Map Symbols

So that we can quickly and easily identify key features on an OS map we use symbols. If we used words, the map would quickly become messy and confusing. You can find the meaning of each symbol in the legend (key) of the map.

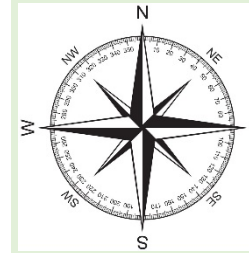
Motorway	Postal District Boundary	Public Open Space/Allotments
Primary Route	Main Railway Station	Park/Garden/Sports Ground
'A' Road	Other Railway Station	Wood/Forest
'B' Road	London Underground Station	Police Station
Other Road	Docklands Light Rail Station	Fire Station
Toll	Bus/Coach Station	Post Office
Street Market	Car Park	Library
Pedestrian Street	Public Toilet	Youth Hostel
Cycle Path	Leisure & Tourism	Tower Block
Track/Footpath	Administration & Law Embassy	Tourist Information
One-Way Street	Health & Welfare	Heliport
Pedestrian Ferry	Education	Windmill

### 5b. OS Map 6-Figure Grid References



On an OS map, a 4-figure grid reference is not necessarily accurate enough to locate small features. This is when we use a 6-figure grid reference instead. For example, if we needed to locate the northern tip of the triangle symbol specifically, we would still look in grid reference 17,44. However, you need to imagine that each large grid is split into a 10x10 grid of smaller squares. Therefore, the northern tip of the triangle is located at 175, 447 because it is five little squares along box 17 and seven little squares up box 44. Remember to have a look in your book to remind you of when you did this in class!

### 4. OS Map Direction and Distance



A compass is an important tool for working out what direction you are going in when reading a map. On an OS Map the top of the map is always North.

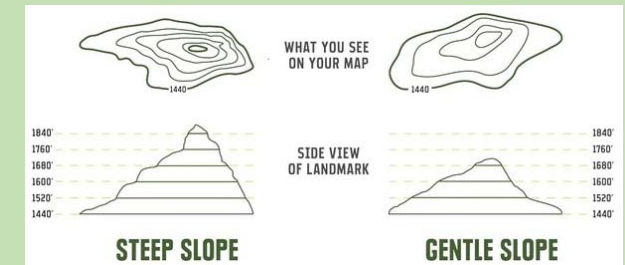
(1 centimeter represents 250 meters)

1: 25 000



To find the real distance between two points on a map you use a scale. Take a ruler or piece of string and measure the distance on the map and convert it using the scale.

### 6. OS Maps Contour Lines



If you look closely at an OS map, you will see many faint brown squiggly lines. These are called contour lines and each one represents a height above sea level of the land on the map. If the contour lines are close together like the image on the left above then you know it is a steep slope. If the contour lines are far apart like the image on the right above then you know it is a gentle slope. Contour lines are useful as they inform us of the height of the land even on a flat 2D map, so you can for example, more easily plan where you want to go on a walk or bike ride

### 7. Geographical Information System (GIS) Maps

A GIS map is simply a way of showing information about a location that allows the person looking at it to better understand a particular aspect of our world. GIS maps nowadays are created using modern technologies such as satellites and computers to generate sophisticated representations of some incredible aspects of our world. One example of a GIS map includes one that shows the entire network of underwater communication cables that stretch around our planet linking hundreds of countries. GIS maps are used by organisation such as the police force as well as big businesses and of course Geographer's as well as individuals in their everyday lives and many more.