

Subject	Geography
Unit	Year 7 - Key Geographical Skills

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Location	The place where a particular point or object exists.
Distribution	The way in which something is spread out.
Birds eye view	The view from the sky, what a bird would see looking down.
As the crow flies	The straight line distance from one place to another.
Sketch map	A map drawn from observation (rather than from exact measurements) and representing the main features of an area.
Key	A section dedicated to understanding the map, the symbols used on the map and other more complex features. Sometimes called a legend.
Map symbols	Found on maps to help us to include lots of detail, drawn to scale. They include simple images, letters and abbreviations.
Compass directions	North, East, South, West...
4-point compass	The four main points of the compass are north, east, south and west.
8-point compass	4 additional points are added to the basic compass. these points are situated between the main points. They are a combination of the points they are between and always start with north or south. e.g. Between north and east is north east.
Scale	Helps us work out the distances between places by representing the actual size of a feature on a map. e.g. 1:25,000 would mean that every cm you measure on a map would be 25,000 cm in reality.
Grid references	A grid of squares helps the map-reader to locate a place.
Eastings	On a map, numbered vertical grid lines that increase in value as they move to the east.

Northings	On a map, numbered horizontal grid lines that increase in value as they move to the north.
Relief	The physical shape of the land. Normally described with words like: Steep, Flat, valley, hill, mountain.
Altitude	Height of the land, measured in metres above sea level.
Spot height	A point on a map that is labelled with its height above sea level normally in metres.
Contour lines	Thin brown lines drawn on OS maps that connect points of the same height. Normally the height of the line is also written on it at some point. These are great at showing the relief of the land.
Triangulation pillar	A network of concrete pillars found in the UK that were used to make maps.
Layer colouring/shading	When sections of the same height on a map are shaded the same colour. Maps normally become darker the higher they get.
Latitude	Imaginary lines around the Earth running parallel to the equator. These are measured in degrees north or south of the equator.
Longitude	Imaginary lines around the Earth running from the north to the south pole. These are measured in degrees east or west of the Prime Meridian.
Equator	An imaginary line that runs exactly half way between the north and south poles.
Prime meridian (Greenwich meridian)	The line of 0° longitude, the starting point for measuring distance both east and west around Earth.
Geographical information system (GIS)	Electronic maps with layers added to display information about the area.
Global Positioning System (GPS)	These pinpoint an exact location on the globe according to lines of latitude and longitude.
Atlas	A book that contains collections of maps and useful geographical information normally about the entire planet.
Ordnance Survey	The national mapping agency for Great Britain. The maps they produce are ideal for planning walking expeditions and are called OS maps.

Fieldwork	When you go outside and find out things about a place. in the natural environment, rather than in a classroom
Field sketch	A simplistic drawing of a particular location (not just a field!).
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	An assessment of the environmental consequences of a plan or project

