

Geography

## **What are OS maps?**

## **Downloadable Resource**

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# Task 1 - Answer these questions

Q1 What does OS stand for?

Q2 What is the name for the list of symbols and definition found on an OS map?

Q3 Why do we need map symbols?

*Hint: Think about what a map would be like without map symbols to show the features on a map.*

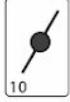
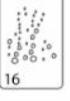
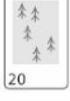
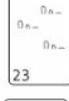
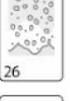
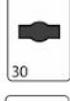
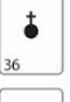
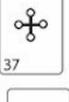
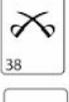
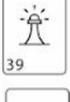
Q4 What do map symbols need to be like?

*Hint: How must maps be designed so they are quick and easy to use?*

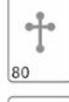
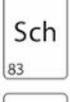
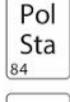
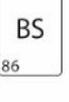
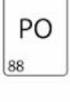
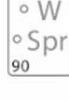


# OS Map Key

Use this key to support tasks 2 & 3

- 1 Recreational path
- 2 Other route with public access
- 3 Footpath
- 4 Bridleway
- 5 Byway open to all traffic
- 6 Restricted byway
- 7 Motorway
- 8 A road
- 9 Level crossing
- 10 Railway station
- 11 National Park boundary
- 12 Contours (5m interval)
- 13 Electricity transmission line
- 14 County boundary
- 15 Cliff
- 16 Scree
- 17 Quarry
- 18 Spoil heap
- 19 Access land
- 20 Coniferous wood
- 21 Non-coniferous wood
- 22 Orchard
- 23 Scrub
- 24 Bracken, heath or rough grassland
- 25 Marsh, reeds or saltings
- 26 Shingle
- 27 Mud
- 28 Bunkhouse, camping barn or other hostel
- 29 Youth hostel
- 30 Bus station
- 31 Mast
- 32 Windmill
- 33 Wind turbine
- 34 Place of worship
- 35 " - with tower
- 36 " - with spire or dome
- 37 Site of antiquity
- 38 Site of battle
- 39 Lighthouse
- 40 Solar farm
- 41 Camping and caravan site
- 42 Viewpoint (180°)
- 43 Parking
- 44 Information centre (seasonal)
- 45 Public phone

- 46 Emergency phone
- 47 Recreation, leisure or sports centre
- 48 Picnic site
- 49 World Heritage centre or area
- 50 Garden or arboretum
- 51 Nature reserve
- 52 Horse riding
- 53 Historic Scotland
- 54 National Trust
- 55 English Heritage
- 56 Welsh Heritage (CADW)
- 57 Other tourist feature
- 58 Visitor centre
- 59 Toilets
- 60 Country park
- 61 Water activities (board)
- 62 Water activities (paddle)
- 63 Water activities (powered)
- 64 Water activities (sailing)
- 65 Watersports centre (multi-activity)
- 66 Boat hire
- 67 Public house
- 68 Slipway
- 69 Preserved railway
- 70 Theme park
- 71 Walk or trail
- 72 Mountain bike trail
- 73 Bike hire
- 74 Cycle trail
- 75 Heritage centre
- 76 Museum
- 77 Art gallery
- 78 Castle
- 79 Historic house
- 80 Abbey or cathedral
- 81 Fishing
- 82 Craft centre
- 83 School
- 84 Police station
- 85 Monument
- 86 Boundary stone
- 87 Footbridge
- 88 Post Office
- 89 Normal Tidal Limit
- 90 Well, Spring



## Task 2 - Match the symbol with the correct feature

*You could write the answer - Map symbol 5 = b*

Map symbol 1.



Map symbol 2.



Map symbol 3.



Map symbol 4.



a. Nature reserve

b. Church

c. National Trust

d. Windmill

e. Bus station

f. Museum



# Task 3 - Map Symbols

Copy a blank version of the grid below. Using the OS Map Key on Slide 3 sketch the correct symbol for the feature shown in each grid.

**Note:**  
You may want to draw a large table with small symbols if you are going to do the challenge.

Car park	Church with Tower	Site of battle
Nature reserve	Information centre	Viewpoint
Coniferous trees	Public House	Camping and caravan site



# Optional challenge: Map Symbols

*Optional challenge:* Turn this grid into a map by adding different types of roads and other features using the map symbol key.

**Note:**  
You may want to draw a large table with small symbols if you are going to do the challenge.

Car park	Church with Steeple	Site of battle
Nature reserve	Information centre	Viewpoint & Mast
Coniferous trees	Public House	Camping and caravan site

