

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.

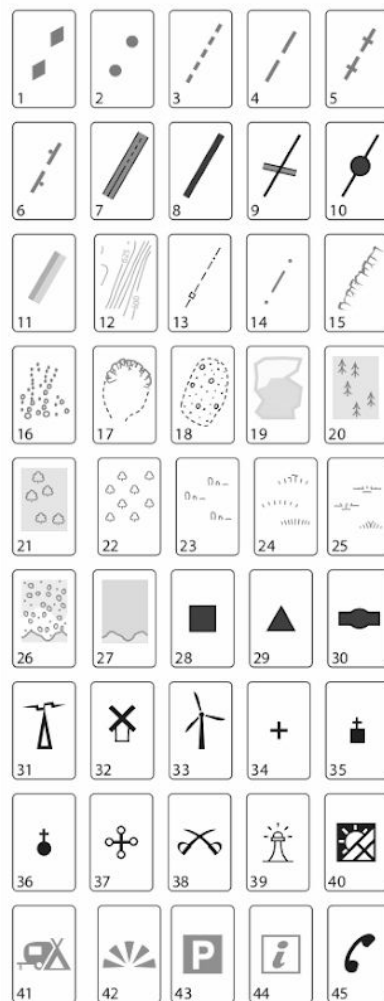
Q4 What do map symbols need to be like?

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



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

