



Key Vocabulary

Compass	A compass is a tool for finding direction. A simple compass is a magnetic needle mounted on a pivot, or short pin. The needle, which can spin freely, always points north.
Map	A map is a diagrammatic representation of an area of land or sea showing physical features, cities, roads, etc.
Navigation	Navigation is the process or activity of accurately ascertaining one's position and planning and following a route.
Direction	Direction means a course along which someone or something moves.
Cardinal points	The Cardinal Points are each of the four main points of the compass (north, south, east, and west).

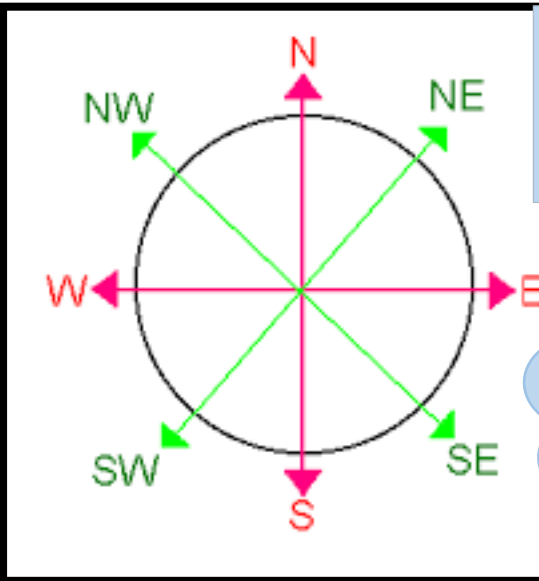
1		viewpoint
2	CG	coastguard
3		picnic site
4		golf course
5	P	parking
6		bus/coach station
7		campsite
8	i	information centre
9	PH	public house
10		windmill
11	+	place of worship
12		telephone

Map symbols

This is a four-figure map

How to read a map

The horizontal gridlines are called northings and the vertical lines are called eastings. The first 2 numbers are called northings and the last two numbers are called eastings. Remember to read along the corridor and then up the stairs (just like in maths). Some maps have 6 digits they are called 6-figure maps/grids.



This is a compass. In pink you can see: north, east, south and west. In green you can see: north-east, south-east, south-west and north-west.

The Cardinal Points (N, E, S and W) are 90 degrees apart. Whereas the Intercardinal Compass Points (NE, SE, SW and NW) are 45 degrees apart.

How do compasses work?

The Earth is a giant magnet that has two centres of force; the North and South Poles. The core of the planet, which is mainly molten iron, creates a magnetic field as it spins around. This is what makes the north and south magnetic poles and how compasses are able to work.

How long have compasses been used for?

The earliest compass use recorded comes from the Chinese Han Dynasty and Tang Dynasty, around 200 BC. They discovered that some metal from the ground was naturally magnetic and so were able to use these metals, known as lodestone, or magnetite, to magnetise iron needles in the first types of compass.