What are grid references?

How can we use grid references to find places on maps?

Key terms (3)

**Grid lines**: Blue, horizontal and vertical lines on an O.S. map which divide it up into grid squares.

**Eastings**: Vertical grid lines on an O.S. Map.

**Northings**: Horizontal grid lines on an O.S. map.
Grid references on O.S. maps

Being able to give a grid reference and find a place on a map using one is an essential map skill.

Without this skill you will not be able to fully complete the route cards required for the expeditions.

You may be unfortunate and find yourself in an emergency situation and may need to give a grid reference for your exact location.
In order to locate places on maps, all O.S. maps are divided by numbered grid lines, turning the map into a series of grid squares. The vertical lines are called 'eastings' and the horizontal ones, 'northings'.

**Eastings**: vertical grid lines are numbered at the top and bottom of the map. **Northings** are numbered on either side of the map. Each square has a number or 'reference'.
There is a pub (PH) on the map, what’s it’s four figure grid reference?

The answer is 03 35

In order to give a 4 figure grid reference, first look at the vertical grid line which runs down the left hand side of the grid square, here it’s ’03’.

Next, look at the line which runs along the bottom of the grid square, here it’s ’35’.

Never do it the other way around!
4 Figure grid references on O.S. maps
Time to practice your 4-figure grid references . . .

1. Egg timer _____________ 01 05
2. Scissors _______________ 02 03
3. PC mouse ______________ 04 02
4. Golf course _____________ 03 04
5. Gift box ________________ 05 04
6. Candle _________________ 03 01
7. Question Mark __________ 01 01
8. Ship ___________________ 04 05
9. Paper _________________ 02 02

1. Bike _________________ 04 02
2. Police car _____________ 04 04
3. Ambulance _____________ 01 02
4. Information ____________ 02 01
5. Plane ________________ 03 01
6. No Smoking ____________ 03 04
7. Telephone _____________ 01 04
8. Train _________________ 03 03
If you can do four figure grid references, you should be able to easily get the hang of six figure grid references!

Whether you are using a Landranger map or an Explorer map, the way you do grid references is exactly the same.

Being able to give and also find grid references is an essential map skill to have when navigating. A six figure grid reference allows you to pinpoint a place down to 100 metres.
When doing six figure grid references you have to imagine that the grid square has another set of vertical grid lines within it.

And another set of horizontal grid lines within it.

Look at mapzone.
Imagine that you are on a weekend expedition, in what situation might you have to:

• **Give** a six figure grid reference?
• **Find** a six figure grid reference?
Remember, you can look at any of these power-point resources again by going onto the DofE area on the school website.

Find the Bronze D of E folder then pick which of the training sessions you would like to look at again.

Remember to check your e-mails at least once a week.