

Elements of a Map

Chapter 2: Elements of a Map · Topic 1

Key Concept

A map's title tells us what area or information the map shows, while the scale tells us the relationship between map distance and real distance.

Direction on a map is usually shown with a compass symbol, with north typically pointing to the top of the map.

Symbols on a map represent real features, like a tree symbol for a forest or a blue line for a river, explained by the key or legend.

Understanding these elements helps us read maps accurately and find locations, distances, and directions correctly.

Quick Revision Notes

- A map's title tells us what it shows.
- Scale shows map distance versus real distance.
- Direction is shown with a compass, north usually at top.
- Symbols represent real features on maps.
- A key or legend explains the symbols.
- Understanding elements helps read maps accurately.
- Maps help find locations and distances.
- Maps are essential geography tools.

Practice Questions

- 1 Identify the title, scale and key on a map.
- 2 Draw a compass rose showing four directions.
- 3 Create three symbols and their meanings for a map.
- 4 Discuss why maps need a scale.
- 5 Find north on a map you have.
- 6 Practice reading a simple map with a key.