

Reading Simple Maps and Scale

Chapter 14: Maps and Locations · Topic 1

Key Concept

A map scale might say '1 cm = 1 km', meaning every centimetre on the map represents 1 kilometre in real life.

To find a real distance using a scale, we measure the distance on the map, then multiply by the scale - if a distance is 5 cm on a map with scale 1 cm = 1 km, the real distance is 5 km.

Maps also use symbols, a compass rose (showing directions), and a key (legend) to help us understand what is shown.

Understanding map scale helps us accurately judge real-world distances from a map, which is a useful skill for travel and geography.

Quick Revision Notes

- A map scale relates map distance to real distance.
- 1 cm = 1 km is an example of a map scale.
- We multiply map distance by the scale to find real distance.
- 5 cm at scale 1 cm=1 km means 5 km real distance.
- Maps use symbols, a compass rose and a key.
- A compass rose shows directions on a map.
- A key (legend) explains map symbols.
- Understanding scale helps judge real distances accurately.

Practice Questions

- 1 Find a map with a scale and calculate a real distance.
- 2 Measure a distance on a simple map you draw.
- 3 Create your own map with a scale and key.
- 4 Practice converting three map distances to real distances.
- 5 Discuss why maps use scale instead of showing real size.
- 6 Find the compass rose on a map and identify directions.