What does it take to be an explorer?

Global Geographical Knowledge



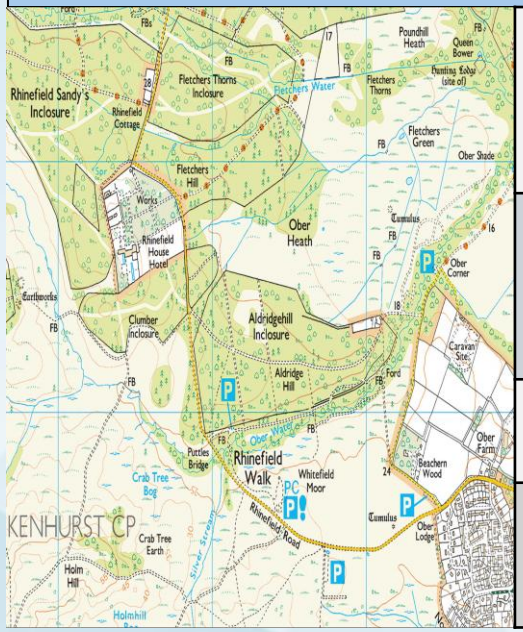
There are 7 continents in the world. A continent is a large landmass that is made up of many countries.

The earth is divided into the 2 hemispheres – the northern and southern hemispheres. The imaginary dividing line is called the equator.

There are 2 polar regions of the Earth; the Arctic and Antarctic. The climate here is consistently below freezing with very little precipitation (rain, snow, hail)

The areas that are closest to the equator are the warmest regions of the Earth. This is because this region is closest to the sun.

Using Maps



Maps show places from a bird's eye view. Some maps show an area close up and, in more detail, whilst others will be 'zoomed out', showing more places but in less detail

Maps use symbols to represent different features (for example: woodland, car parks, churches, roads). These symbols are explained in the Key.

Maps include a compass to indicate directions.

Maps can show different types of information, for example: street maps, weather maps, ecosystems, geology.

Compass Directions



- There are 4 main (cardinal) compass directions: North, South, East and West.
- The spaces in-between the main (cardinal) directions are: North East, South East, South West and North West.
- A simple way to remember the compass direction is the phrase: *Never Eat Shredded Wheat'* or *'Naughty Elephants Squirt Water'*.
- Some maps (not all) are drawn with North at the top of the map. This helps us to understand how places are positioned.

Human and Physical Geography

- Human geography is about how people live and use the land. This may include features such as settlements (villages, towns and cities), roads, farms and other land uses.
- Physical geography is about the natural features of the Earth. This may include features such as mountains, rivers, oceans, weather, ecosystems/biomes, volcanoes.
- Settlements are places where people live (villages, towns and cities). People may choose to live in different places due to their proximity (how close they are) to different human and physical geographical features. For example, some people may wish to be close to a train station, particular schools or a quiet, natural space.