

The Bushcraft Kid

Teacher Resources, Week 2

This PDF contains:

- **Text Questions:** In this section, you will find questions about the chapter. These can be used orally in guided or shared reading discussions, as an independent comprehension exercise, or as part of a written homework or reading club activity.
- **Making the Choice and Voting:** Before choosing how to vote, students could discuss, as a group or a class, the wider context of the story and the consequences for the characters of each voting option at the end of the chapter. Students should be encouraged to use a variety of resources in their research, including books and the Internet.
- **Writing Activities:** Fiction Express for Schools provides a brilliant springboard into writing and some ideas and inspiration are provided in this section.
- **Other Extension Activities:** This section provides ideas for cross-curricular extension activities related to the chapter.
- **Key Words and Phrases:** This section provides a selection of key words and phrases from the chapter for use in a classroom literacy display or 'working wall'.
- **Puzzles:** This section provides printable puzzles for student use. Answers are also provided where appropriate.
- **Picture Resources:** This section provides images to inspire student discussion. These images can be displayed on a whiteboard or printed.
- **Resources:** Here you will find a list of relevant websites and books that students might find useful.

Text Questions

Chapter 2: The Race is On

1. Why isn't Harley going to let a country bridge stop him?
2. How many metaphors can you find on the first page of this story? TEACHER NOTE: '*light grey ribbon path*', '*the river pointing its skeletal fingers*', '*a shark-fin rock*'.
3. What does Harley imagine that helps him face the challenge of getting across the river? Go back to the text to find out.
4. Find the evidence in chapter 2 that shows that the tree by the river might not be able to take Harley's weight.
5. Why does Harley teeter on the edge of the shark-fin rock?
6. What causes Harley's foot to shoot out from under him? Why didn't Harley expect this to happen? Go back to the text to find out.
7. How does Harley feel when he reaches the far side of the river? Find the evidence in the story that answers this question.
8. Why is Harley's emergency flare going to be useless? Go back to the text to find out.
9. Who reaches the top of Grey Tor before Harley the first time, and the second time?
10. Explain what Harley has to do to complete the orienteering challenge. Explain why tokens are needed in this part of the competition.
11. Why does the ranger think Harley is lucky?
12. What do you think has happened to Harley's missing flare? Explain.
13. Who does Harley think has taken all the blue tokens? Do you think he is right? Explain your reasons.

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14. Why does Harley begin to get blisters?
15. Is Harley happy or worried about the rope-climbing challenge? Go back to the text to find the evidence to answer to this question.
16. What does Harley see that makes him realize the climbing challenge has been sabotaged? How does he get down the tree? Go back to the text to find out.
17. Who did the climbing challenge before Harley? Go back to the text to find out.
18. Do you think Tasha is a saboteur? Give reasons for your answer.
19. Why wouldn't Harley cheat in order to win the competition?
20. What surprise does Harley get when he tells the ranger about the cut rope at the yellow checkpoint? How does the ranger explain all the 'stolen' blue tokens? Go back to the chapter to find out.
21. What makes Harley think there is no point in arguing with the ranger? Find the evidence to answer this question.
22. What does the ranger give Harley when he reaches the top of Grey Tor at the end of the chapter? Go back to the text to find out.

Making the Choice and Voting

Which pack should Harley choose?

Option 1: A tent which would give him immediate shelter, allowing him to concentrate on making a fire and cooking his supper.

Do you think staying dry for the night will be important? How difficult do you think it will be for Harley to light a fire without any equipment to help him? Do you think he will be able to start a fire and cook his supper? What risks does this option present for Harley? Do you think a tent is an essential piece of survival kit?

Option 2: Matches, cotton wool and Vaseline in a waterproof bag. The easiest way to start a fire in the wilderness, giving him more time to make a shelter and collect fire wood.

Do you think that making a fire, and cooking the food, is very important? Will Harley have skills to make his own shelter? What do you think he might use to do this? Would you like to see how Harley goes about this? Do you think that would be an interesting plotline? Will Harley have time to make a shelter and collect fire wood? What would happen if it started raining before Harley got the fire going?

Option 3: A backpack identical to the one that Mr Wilderness takes with him on his adventures... but with no indication what is inside.

Do you think this is an exciting and/or intriguing option? Why does this option present a risk for Harley? Why might it be a risk worth taking? What do you think will be inside the backpack? Might it have a tent *and* a fire-lighting kit? Would you choose this mysterious option if you were Harley? Can you predict what will happen in chapter 3 if this plotline is chosen?

Writing Activities

Choose one of the options at the end of chapter 2 and write the first paragraph of chapter 3 based on it. Make sure your paragraph is exciting or entertaining to read.

Which part of Harley's first day in the bushcraft competition would you have enjoyed if you were Harley? Are there any parts that you would not have liked? Write three or four sentences explaining your answers to these questions.

Why do you think Harley's flare was missing from his rucksack? Write an extra scene explaining how this might have happened.

Write a factual account explaining what the competitors have to do in the orienteering part of the competition. Do you think there is anything the organizers could or should have done to stop cheating in this part of the challenge? Include your ideas in your account.

Harley complains that his *'soggy boots were beginning to rub blisters'*. Imagine you are one of the other competitors. Write a few interesting sentences describing the physical hurdles you have had to overcome during the competition so far.

How did Tasha get her yellow token? We know it happened, but we don't know how. Write this missing scene from the story. Use powerful verbs in your description.

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Imagine you are Mr Wilderness. Write a list of things you have chosen to put in the Mr Wilderness backpacks. Write a sentence for each item explaining why you have chosen it.

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Other Extension Activities

Art Activities

Illustrate what you think was the most difficult part of the challenge for Harley. Write a caption to go with your picture.

Draw a picture to illustrate the two metaphors in the following sentence.
'Further upstream a tree arched over the river pointing its skeletal fingers towards a shark-fin rock in the middle'.

Discussion Activities

In a small group, discuss ways the organizers of The Bushcraft Challenge could have prevented the stealing of tokens and the sabotaging of the tree climbing challenge. Make notes on your ideas.

In a small group, discuss why people cheat in competitions. Make notes on your ideas.

Research Activity

Using the Internet, find out about some of the demanding races held around the world that people enter to test their physical abilities, their orienteering skills and their levels of endurance. Write some fact sentences on what you find out.

Word Cloud

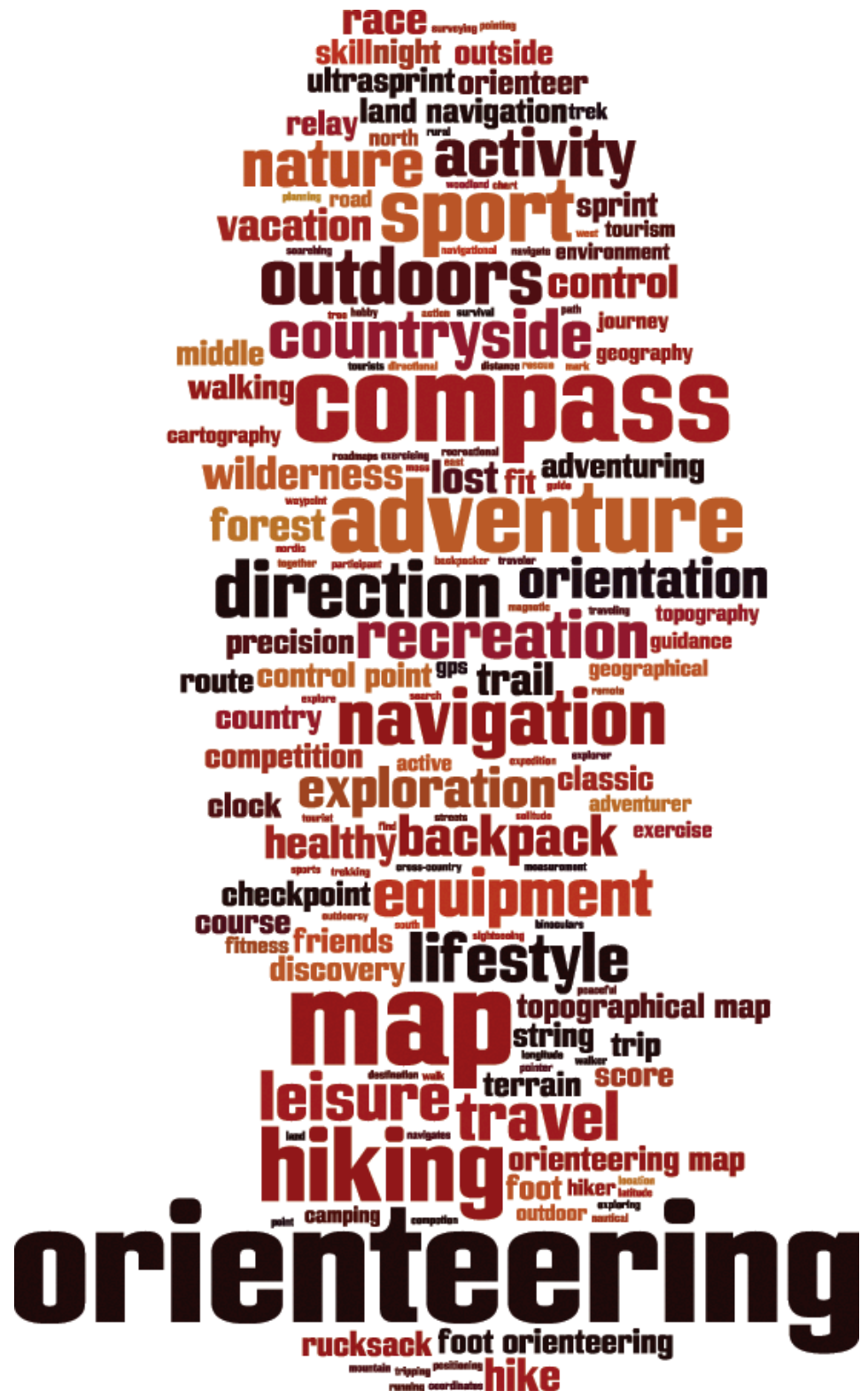
Activity

Here is a word cloud made from words to do with orienteering.

Do you know what all of the words mean?

Can you think of any other words that could be added to this word cloud?

Create your own word cloud containing words linked to an outdoor or survival theme. Draw an outline of the shape you have chosen and then fill it with all of the words.



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TEACHER NOTE: Pupils could make a digital word cloud using a website such as Tagxedo (<http://www.tagxedo.com>)

Key Words and Phrases

Here is a list of challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 2 of *The Bushcraft Kid*: **raging torrent**, **scaled**, **slimy moss**, **studded**, **teetered on the edge**, **sliver of moon**, **jagged rock**.

You may wish to explore this vocabulary with your pupils, to aid their understanding of the chapter and enhance, or 'up level', the quality of their own writing.

You might like to use the boxed versions of the words below on your 'working wall' or literacy display!

raging torrent

scaled

slimy moss

studded

teetered on
the edge

sliver of
moon

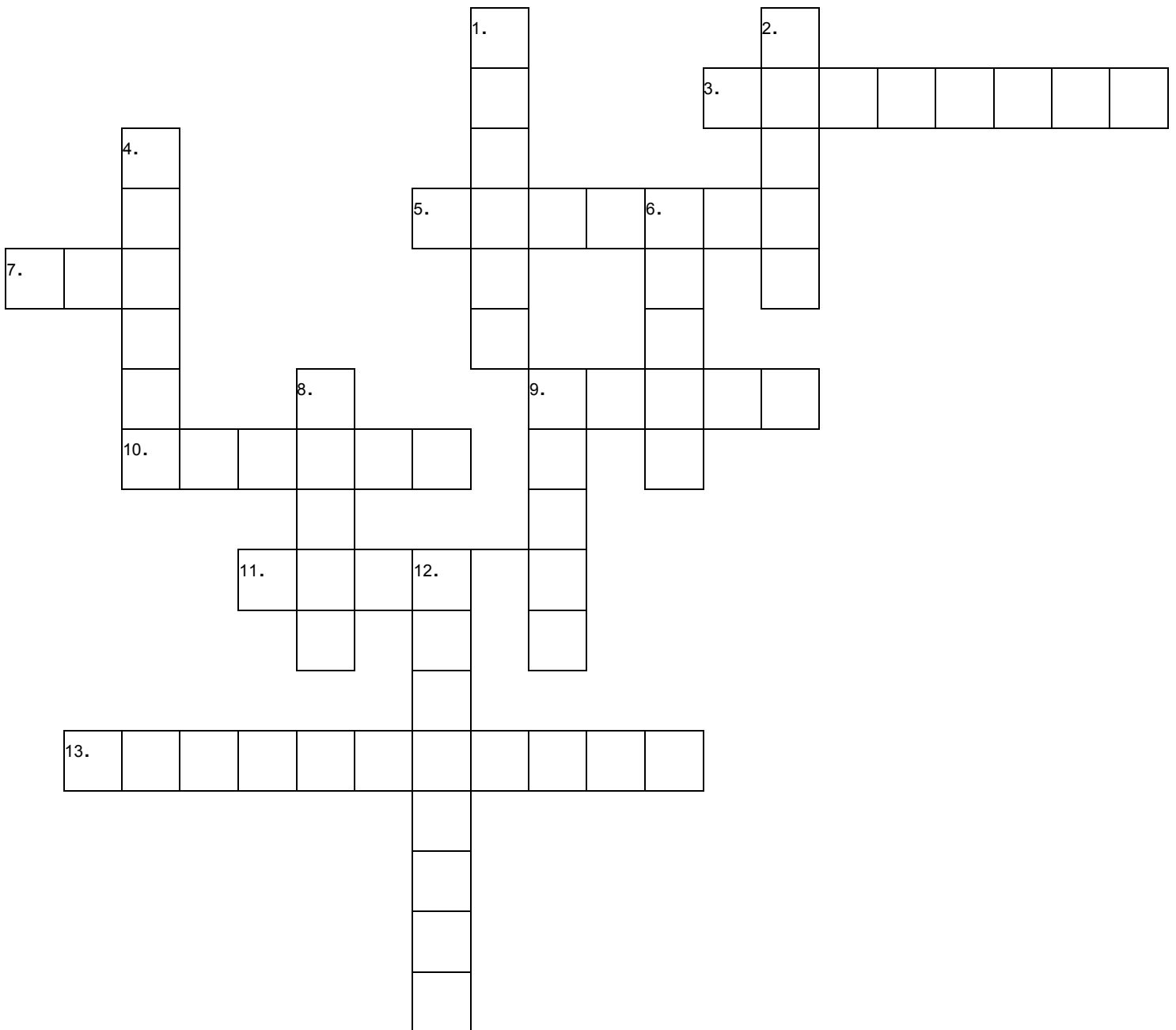
jagged rock

drenched

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Puzzle: Crossword (page 1 of 2)

Here is a crossword puzzle containing words from chapters 1 and 2 of *The Bushcraft Kid*.



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Puzzle: Crossword (page 2 of 2)

CLUES

Across

3. The name given to the person damaging things and cheating to try and win the competition. (8)
5. Finn, Tasha and _____ beat Harley to the top of Grey Tor at the end of the chapter? (7)
7. The first checkpoint is at the top of Grey _____. (3)
9. How many different coloured tokens do the competitors have to collect? (5)
10. The colour of the token in the tree-climbing challenge. (6)
11. At the start of chapter 2 Harley chooses to cross the wobbly _____. (6)
13. Harley is very good at sprinting and tumbling over rough terrain, also called _____. (11)

Down

1. The ranger gives Harley a carton of apple juice, a pouch of pasta in sauce and what else? (6)
2. Harley smears green and black camouflage _____ on his face. (5)
4. What is the main character called? (6)
6. Harley thinks the rock in the river looks like a _____ fin (5)
8. The competitors are only allowed to take spare clothing, a water bottle and what other item in their rucksacks? (5)
9. The name of the magazine advertising the competition is Bushcraft _____. (5)
12. Harley makes it to the other side of the river but his rucksack is _____(8)

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Picture Resources

This photograph shows a raging river.



Is this what you thought the river the Harley crossed might look like?

Can you see any 'jagged shark-fin' rocks in the picture?

What would happen to you if you fell into a river like this one?

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Picture Resources

This photograph shows a hiker using a compass.



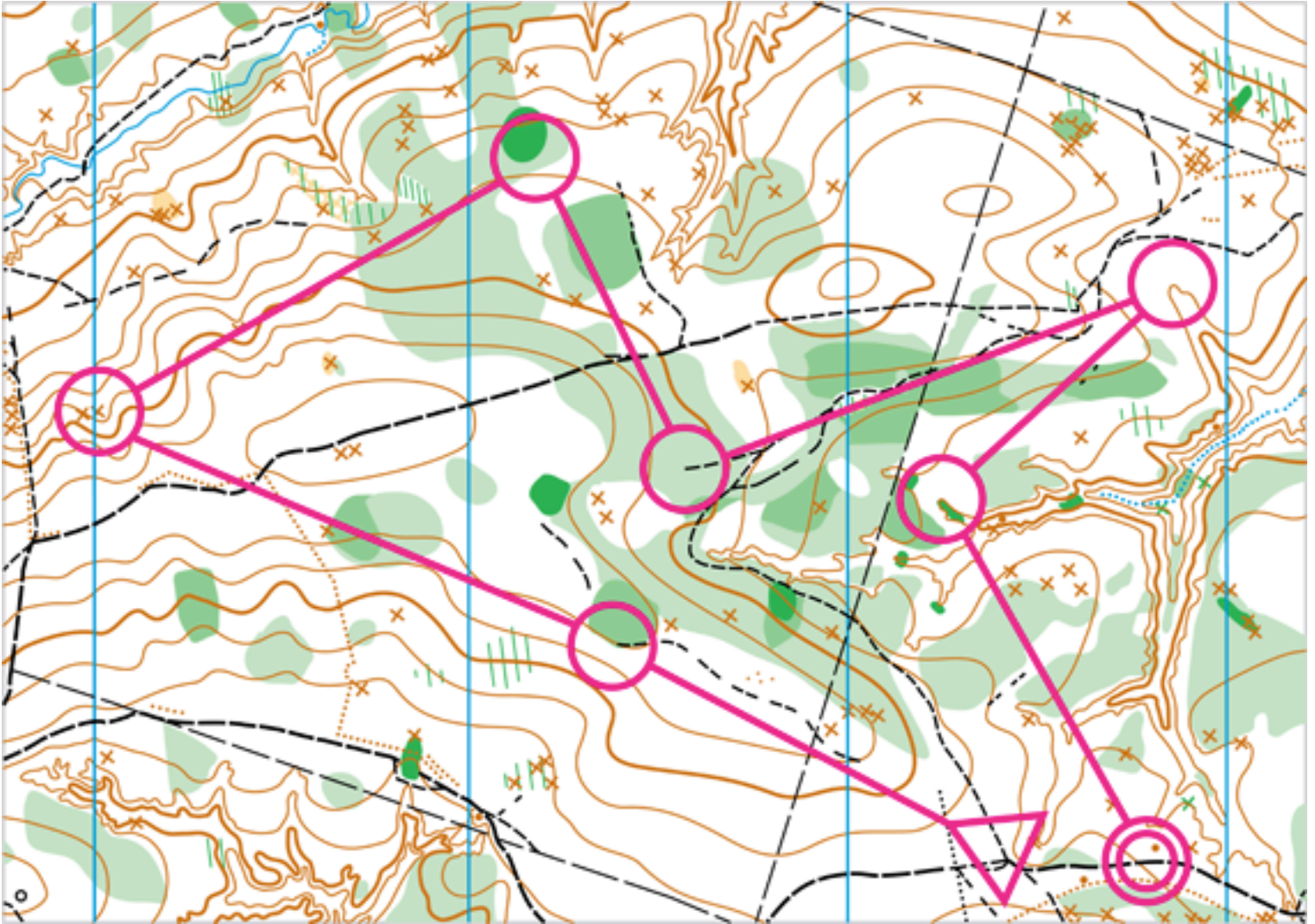
What do the symbols N, S, E, and W mean?

Which direction is this person facing?

How do you use a map and compass to find your way if you are lost?

Picture Resources

This picture shows an orienteering map.



Where do you think the route starts? Where does it end?

What do the pink circles show?

What are the brown, wavy lines? What are the black, dotted lines?

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Resources

Websites

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids-world-atlas/maps.html>

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/questions/maps.html>

<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone/>

<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone/map-skills>

https://www.britishorienteeing.org.uk/images/uploaded/downloads/schools_tri_o_resources.pdf

Note to teachers: Every effort has been made by the Publishers to ensure that these websites are suitable for children, that they are of the highest educational value, and that they contain no inappropriate or offensive material. However, because of the nature of the Internet, it is impossible to guarantee that the content of these sites will not be altered. We strongly advise that Internet access is supervised by a responsible adult.

Books

Oxford Reading Tree: Bushcraft: Survival Skills by Ian Brember and Greg Foot,
OUP 2015

Go Wild!: 101 Things To Do Outdoors Before You Grow Up by Fiona Danks and
Jo Schofield, Francis Lincoln 2009

Bushcraft and Survival series by Neil Champion, Franklin Watts