



**Map Reading**  
**Geography – Junior Cert**  
**Quick Notes**

# Map Reading

A map shows a scaled down picture of reality. Symbols and colours are used to represent the real world. Scale is the link between distance on a map and its corresponding distance on the ground. Scale can be shown on the map in three ways – by a linear scale, a statement of scale or by representative fraction. Grid references are used to locate places on a map. The vertical lines on a map are called Eastings and the horizontal lines are called Northings. Height on a map may be shown in one of four ways – contour lines, spot height, colour and triangular pillar. Slopes on a map may be steep, gentle, concave, and convex. Communications on a map refer to roads, railways, airports, ferry terminals and canals. Settlement on a map takes one of three forms- ancient settlement, rural settlement or urban settlement. Tourism on a map would be indicated by features such as mountains, forests, rivers, lakes, seas, beaches, antiquities, youth hostels, caravan parks etc. Forests may be found in upland areas where the gradient is too steep for agriculture or they may be found in low-lying areas where the land is not suitable for agriculture.