

Simple grid references – finding a square

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

A grid reference is a short name for one square on a grid. It uses the column letter first and then the row number, like B3.

- The square where column C meets row 2 is called C2.
- B3 uses letter first so it is not the same place as 3B.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

NAMING THE HIDDEN SHIP

- 1 Find the column letter across the top where the ship sits. The ship is under **B**.
- 2 Find the row number down the side where the ship sits. The ship is beside **2**.
- 3 Write the letter first, then the number, to get the grid reference **B2**.

DISCUSSION STARTER

REFLECT Do you name the letter or the number first on a grid square? Why does the order matter?

ANSWER KEY

Scaffold: visual check on the page

Q1: A1

Q2: B3

Q3: C2

Q4: B2

Q5: A3

- a) **Always** — We always write the letter across the top before the number down the side.
- b) **Never** — The order matters, so letter-first and number-first point to different places.
- c) **Always** — Each meeting of one letter and one number gives a unique short name.
- d) **Never** — The agreed rule is letter first so everyone finds the same square.