

Interpreting scale maps and distances

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

A scale on a map shows how a short distance on the paper stands for a real distance on the ground. With the scale $1 \text{ cm} = 2 \text{ km}$, multiply the centimetres measured by 2 to find the real kilometres.

→ On a map of County Kerry, 3 cm between towns means 3 times 2 = 6 km really.

→ A 4.5 cm road on the Wild Atlantic Way map is 4.5 times 2 = 9 km on the ground.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

USING THE SCALE TO FIND REAL DISTANCE

- 1 Measure the distance on the map in centimetres.
- 2 Multiply that number by 2 because each centimetre stands for 2 km.
- 3 Write the answer in kilometres.

ANSWER KEY

a) $3 \text{ cm} = 6 \text{ km}$

b) $4.5 \text{ cm} = 9 \text{ km}$; $7.5 \text{ cm} = 15 \text{ km}$

c) 7.5 cm

Q1: 6 km

Q2: 4 km

Q3: 8 km

Q4: 9 km

a) Always — Multiplying 5 by 2 always gives 10.

b) Never — You always multiply by 2, never divide, for this scale.

c) Always — That is exactly what the scale states.

d) Sometimes — Some distances like 4.5 cm require half centimetres.