



One way to use the single letters of the Type B marker sets is to print “all controls” maps. All the controls are shown on the map with numbers beside each circle but no joining lines. The numbers can be allocated randomly or in a logical sequence across the map.

Each youngster or pair are given a series of control numbers (probably in ascending numerical order) to visit in any order, for example 3,8,11,13,24. They first identify the controls on the map. If the maps are laminated they can circle them in permanent felt tip pen (which can be cleaned off later with methylated spirit) and then draw lines between them to create the shortest course that visits all the points. When they get to each control point they note down the letter, and having collected all the letters return to the start. They then have to arrange the letters they have collected to form a word that fits the clue they have been given – for example plants, wild animals, makes and models of car etc. This activity is good for literacy as well as developing orienteering skills and is easily differentiated for more able or older children by giving them, longer words.

As an example, if the clue is “Birds” then with the standard marker set (26 markers) you can have:

Barn Owl	Eagle	Lark
Kite	Tern	Magpie
Raven	Auk	Wren
Starling	Curlew	Bustard
Heron	Quail	Merlin
Crow	Wren	Falcon (or Gyr Falcon)
Robin	Goldcrest	Nightjar
Jackdaw	Warbler	Pigeon
Cygnets	Shrike	Snipe
Duck	Widgeon	Grouse
Turkey	Swift	Swan (or Mute Swan)
Owl	Whimbrel	Lapwing
Avocet	Crane	Osprey
Goshawk	Plover	Skua
Budgie	Ostrich	Emu

With the extended set (35 markers) you can also have:

Sparrow	Dodo	Mallard
Gull	Greenfinch	Wheatear
Blue Tit	Gannet	Partridge
Bearded Tit	Bittern	Shoveler duck
Linnet	Goose	Ptarmigan
Crossbill	Cassowary	Merganser
Bullfinch	Woodpecker	Sea Eagle
Albatross	Starling	Parrot
Condor	Rook	Penguin
Kestrel	Razorbill	Egret
Spoonbill	Erne	Moorhen
Coot	Stint	Dunlin
Oystercatcher	Canary	Pheasant

Of course with this range of birds you will have to provide a list of bird names, or if you have bird posters available limit the range to those illustrated.

If the clue is “Wild animals” then with the standard marker set (26 markers) you can have:

Fox	Vole	Puma
Badger	Tiger	Elk
Wild cat	Lynx	Hare
Mink	Bear	Lemur
Ocelot	Leopard	Springbok
Mouse	Bison	Civet
Rat	Monkey	Okapi
Wolf	Lion	Eland
Zebra	Camel	Vicuna
Gnu	Chimp	Rhino
Chamois	Python	Viper
Ibex	Serval	Chipmunk
Frog	Toad	Warthog
Wild goat	Lizard	Cougar

With the extended 35 marker set the list can include, for example:-

Moose	Orang Outan	Weasel
Elephant	Deer	Possum
Kangaroo	Rhinoceros	Water rat
Antelope	Anteater	Panda
Polar Bear	Racoon	Coyote
Meerkat	Koala	Impala
Chimpanzee	Snow Leopard	Jaguar
Beaver	Stoat	Red Panda
Adder	Vampire Bat	Llama
Alpaca	Iguana	Dormouse
Mouflon	Field mouse	Rattlesnake
Muntjac Deer	Fallow deer	Gorilla
Wallaby	Tortoise	Alligator

Of course this idea can be extended to any other group of objects. Things found on a farm; UK towns and cities; Rivers seas and oceans ;Vegetables, flowers and fruit; Sea creatures etc.