

Wind Watching

Watching the wind is a great way to learn more about weather and weather patterns.

Helpful Materials and Tools:

- ✓ printout of observation sheet
- ✓ lightweight fabric such as scarf or handkerchief
- ✓ optional notebook for recording additional observations
- ✓ optional materials to build a wind vane (see web link)

CAUTION: Do not stand outside when thunderstorms are near. Lightning is extremely dangerous, so always stay inside when thunderstorms are in your area.

Directions:

Record the wind direction and describe the weather for at least four days in a row.

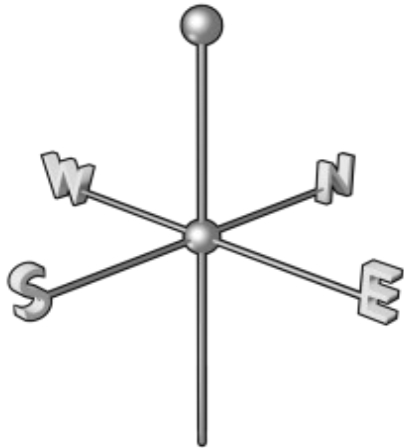
To figure out wind direction, stand away from buildings and hold up a lightweight scarf or handkerchief. You can also watch flags or wind vanes.



Record observations on this sheet.

Date _____

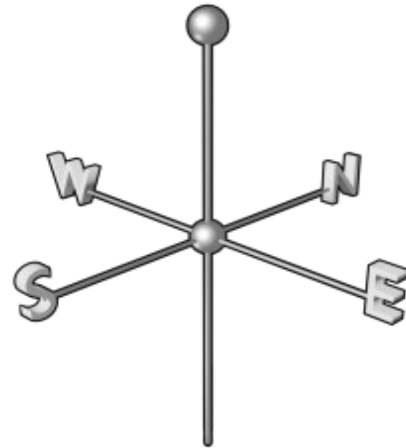
The weather today is



Draw an arrow on this wind vane to show the wind direction today.

Date _____

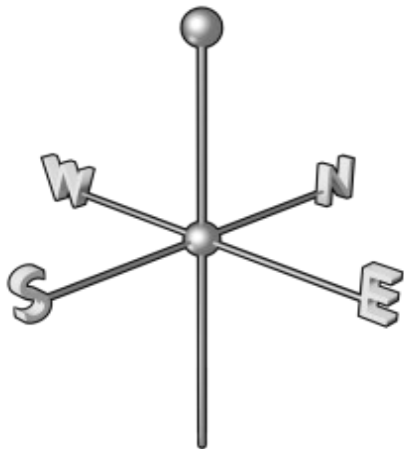
The weather today is



Draw an arrow on this wind vane to show the wind direction today.

Date _____

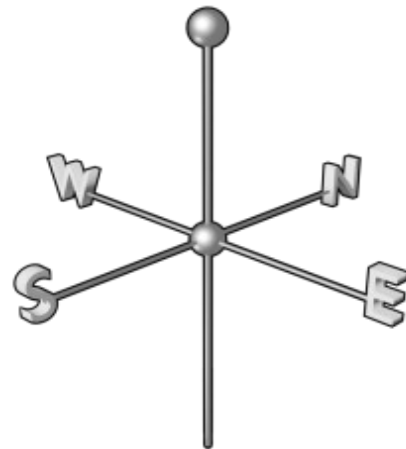
The weather today is



Draw an arrow on this wind vane to show the wind direction today.

Date _____

The weather today is



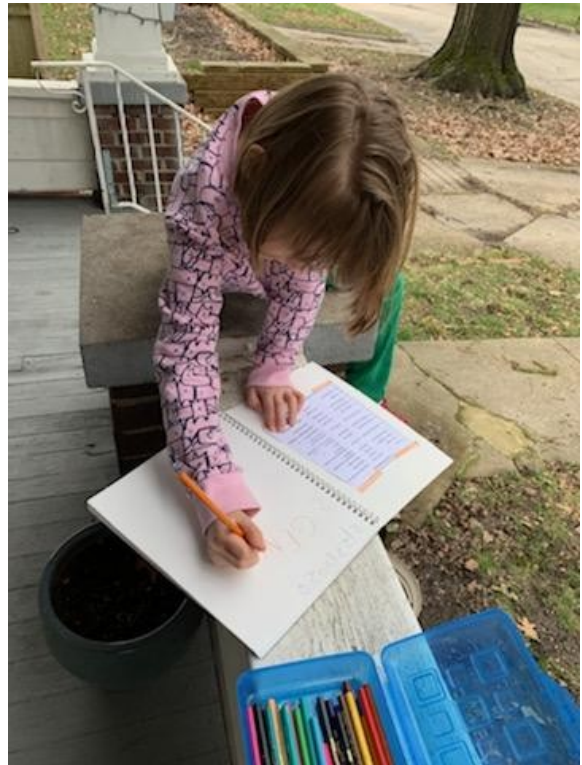
Draw an arrow on this wind vane to show the wind direction today.

Keep a Weather Diary (optional):

If you want to keep track with more detail, start a weather diary in a notebook. Make observations several times per day.

Things to record:

- date
- time
- temperature
(can use your own thermometer or get the information from weather app/website or tv station)
- humidity
(can use numbers or describe air as dry or sticky)
- wind direction
- description of how fast the wind is blowing
(simple description or use Beaufort Wind Scale)
- description of clouds in the sky



Your diary can be as simple or as complex as you like.

Look back over your diary after a few weeks. Do you notice any patterns? Try making predictions for the next few days and see how you do. You might just surprise yourself!

Beaufort Wind Scale (optional):

You can use this scale for estimating wind speeds based on what you can observe around you. You can find a downloadable copy of the chart at this link:

http://www.weather.gov/media/iwx/webpages/skywarn/Beaufort_Wind_Chart.pdf

Make a Wind Vane (optional):

Wind vanes can be simple or very beautiful. If you'd like to make your own temporary wind vane, try one of the methods on this wikiHow page:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Wind-Vane>
