

How to Make a Weather Vane¹

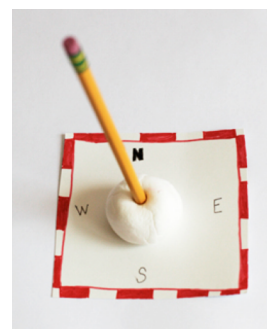
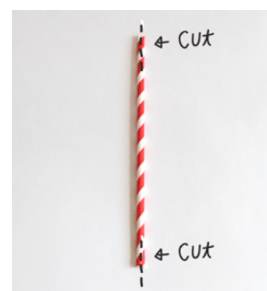
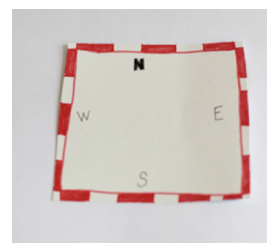
Wind vanes are also known as weather vanes since they a change in the wind direction may indicate a change in weather.

Materials

- a piece of clay
- square piece of cardboard or paper plate
- pencil with a fresh eraser
- straight pin
- straw
- scissors
- card stock or index cards
- markers or crayons
- compass

Directions

1. Take students outside and have them make observations about the weather. Are there clouds in the sky? Are they moving? Can they feel the wind on their faces? Ask them which direction they think the wind is blowing from.
2. Next, have the kids find North using a compass. Then have them write North, South, East and West on the piece of cardboard.
3. Cut a notch into each end of the straw.
4. Cut an arrow and a tail out of construction paper. Slip them into the slits on the straw.
5. Place a piece of clay in the center of the cardboard. Stick the tip of the pencil into the clay.
6. Use a pin to affix the straw to the top of the eraser. Make sure it's centered. You may also want to work the pin a bit to help the arrow spin more easily.
7. Take the weather vane outside and observe the wind direction. Remember that the arrow points in the direction that the wind is coming from.



¹ Adapted from Learn about the Weather with a Homemade Weather Vane <http://www.pbs.org/parents/adventures-in-learning/2014/03/learn-about-the-weather-with-a-homemade-weather-vane/>