

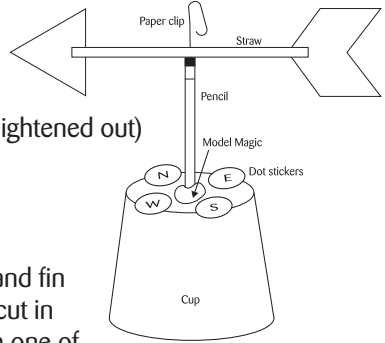
Wind Vane

A wind vane measures the direction the wind is coming from. Wind direction is useful for predicting weather when considered with wind speed. Generally in Central Virginia, wind coming from the north brings colder weather and wind from the south brings warmer weather. The wind is likely to be from 2 directions combined – northeast, northwest, southeast or southwest.



Materials

- Index card
- Straw
- Tape
- Model Magic or clay
- Pencil
- Cup
- Paper clip (straightened out)
- 4 dot stickers



Procedure

Use the index card to cut out a triangle and fin (use the template below). Make a small cut in each end of the straw. Put the triangle in one of the cuts and the fin in the other cut. Make sure the fin and triangle (arrowhead) are lined up. Use 2 small pieces of tape to hold them in place. Push the paper clip tip (straight pin may be used) through the center of the straw and into the eraser of the pencil. Check to make sure the arrow will turn freely around the paper clip. Use the model magic to attach the pencil to the bottom of the cup. Label the 4 dots N, E, S and W and stick them to the cup as shown. In order to find out which direction you are facing use a compass or smart phone app. Place your wind vane outside and see which direction it faces.



Activities

Note the direction the wind comes from a few times during the day to determine wind direction.

