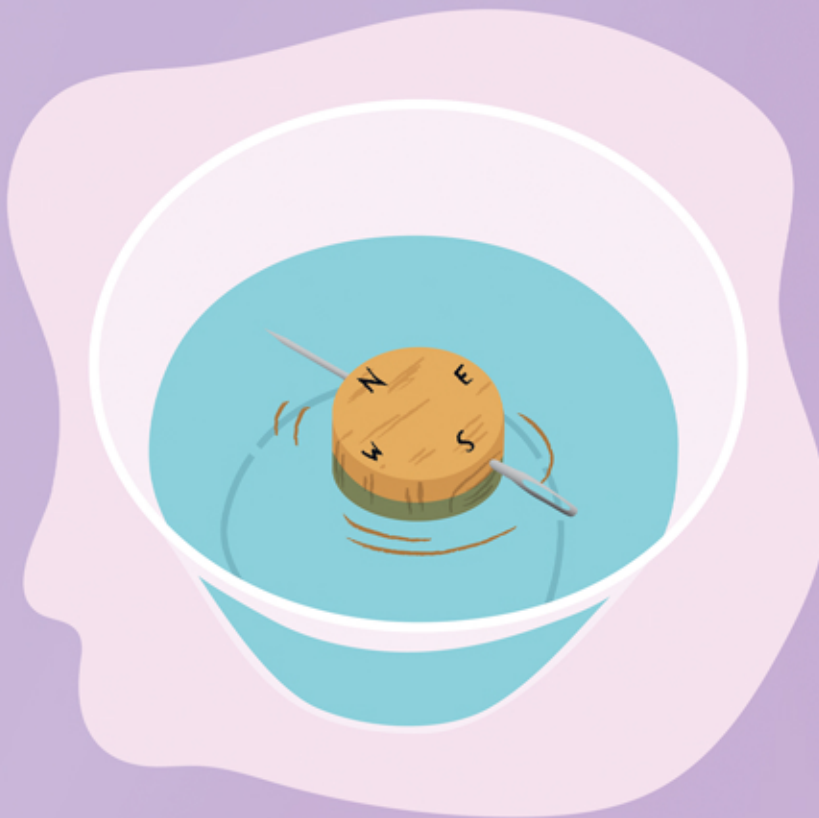


DIY COMPASS



GET
ADVENTUROUS



20 MINUTES



PREPARATION
NEEDED

AIM

Learn the importance of compass directions and how to build a simple compass, using just a few pieces of equipment. Then use that compass to navigate around your meeting space.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- > Sewing Needle
- > Strong Magnet
- > Cork
- > Small Bowl
- > Water

GET ADVENTUROUS: DIY COMPASS

THEME: MY SURVIVAL SKILLS



LEADER PREPARATION

You'll need enough equipment for each child taking part. A strong magnet will be needed for this activity. Ideally a leader should test this activity before doing it with the group.



GETTING INTO THE ACTIVITY

NSEW Game

- 1 Start by learning about the four main compass directions. Who knows what they are? Why is a compass an important piece of kit for navigating?
- 2 Now nominate the four walls in your meeting space as either 'North', 'East', 'South', or 'West'. Explain to the group that you will call one of these directions out and they must run to the correct wall. The last person to make it to the wall each time will be out of the game.
- 3 Increase the difficulty by calling out 5 or 6 of the directions in quick succession, making children need to change direction quickly. You could also add in directions such as 'North East' or 'South West'.

DIY Compass

- 1 Make your own DIY compass to help navigate around your meeting space.
- 2 Stroke the magnet down the length of the needle 50 times (weaker magnets may require more).
- 3 Now magnetise the other side of the needle with the reverse of the magnet. To do this turn the needle upside down and use the other side/opposite end of the magnet and repeat step 2.
- 4 Carefully insert the needle through the cork. This should aim to go exactly through the middle of the cork. You could use a drawing pin to get you started. If you don't have cork, then any item that is lightweight and floats should work (i.e. polystyrene, a leaf, waxed paper).
- 5 Place the cork and needle in the water and see how it moves. It should slowly spin itself around to point north. Use a real compass to see if it has worked.

Navigating with your Compass

- 1 Write some navigation commands on slips of paper (i.e. 5 steps west, 2 steps east, 15 steps south and 8 steps north). Children should then start in the middle of the room with their DIY compass and aim to complete the navigation challenge(s) using their compass.



KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

Please take care when inserting the needle into the cork. This may need to be completed by a leader with a pair of pliers.