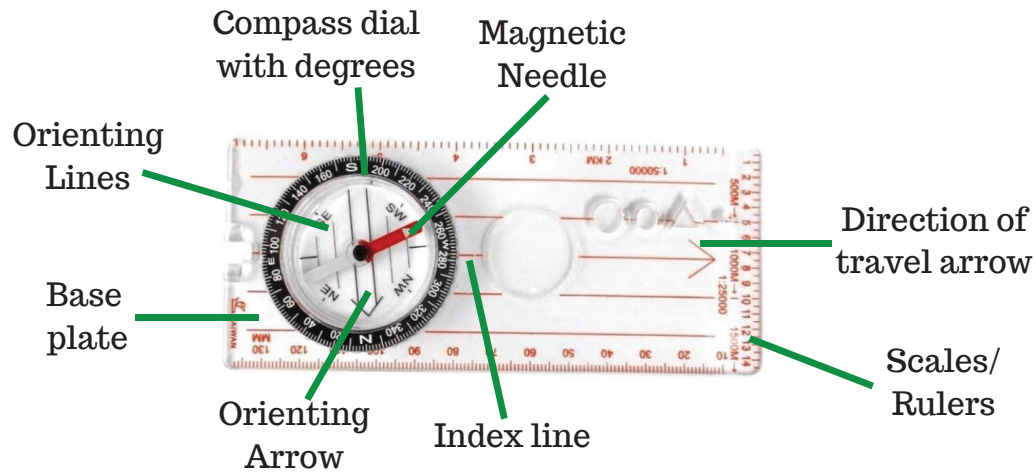


Parts of a Compass



How to Read a Compass

1. Hold the compass close to your stomach. Keep your elbows slightly bent and your arms relaxed.
2. Make sure that the **base plate** is flat and the **direction-of-travel arrow** points away from you. Rotate the compass dial so that the **orienting arrow** lines up with the **direction of travel arrow**.
3. Look down and see which direction the **red magnetic needle** points to. This direction is magnetic north.
4. Notice that if you turn your body while keeping the compass in front of you, the **red magnetic needle** stays pointing in the same direction towards magnetic north.
6. Rotate the **compass dial** so that the **orienting arrow** lines up with the **red magnetic needle**, use the phrase "red in the shed" to remember this step.
7. The **direction of travel arrow** should now indicate what direction you are facing. The degree indicated on the **compass dial** is the bearing and can be used for more advanced directions.

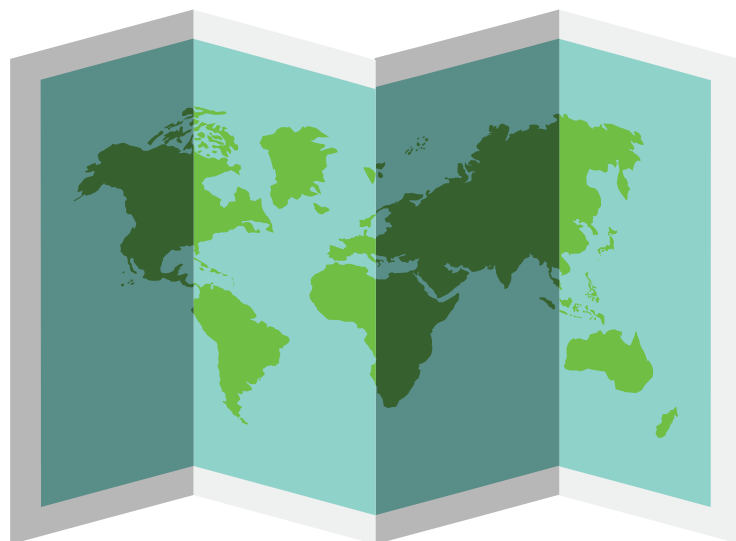
Compass Activity - Closed Course

Practice your compass skills with this challenge!

For this activity you will need a large open space of about 100 sq ft. Start in the middle of the open space. Place something on the ground to use as a spot-marker. Follow the directions to navigate the course.

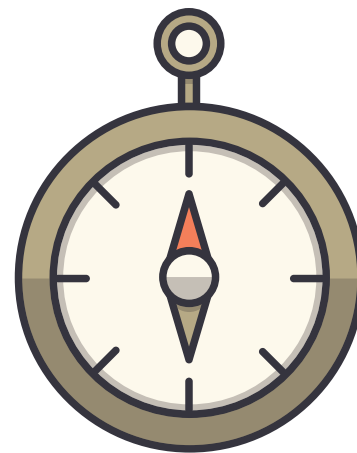
Beginner directions:

1. Take 5 steps South
2. Take 10 steps East.
3. Take 20 steps North.
4. Take 15 steps West.
5. Take 15 steps South.
6. Take 5 steps East.



Advanced Directions:

1. Set your compass for a bearing of 180 degrees, then take 20 steps in that direction.
2. Set your compass for a bearing of 45 degrees, then take 28 steps in that direction.
3. Set your compass for a bearing of 315 degrees, then take 28 steps in that direction.
4. Set your compass for a bearing of 225 degrees, then take 28 steps in that direction.
5. Set your compass for a bearing of 90 degrees, then take 28 steps in that direction



Where did you start with your compass?

Where did you end up?

What did you find challenging?