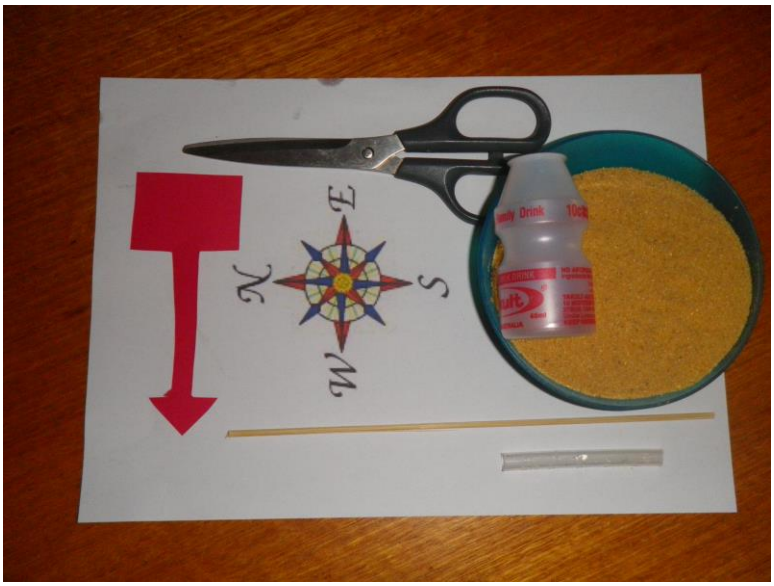
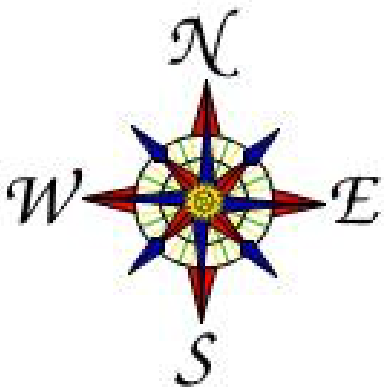
Build Your Own Weather Vane - PPP



Materials

- Sand or soil in a container (small bottle or tin can)
- Half a drinking straw
- Wood skewer (or dowel) with point removed
- Cardboard or plastic (e.g. lid off ice cream container) to make arrow with point smaller than tail
- Sticky tape
- Compass points (provided below)



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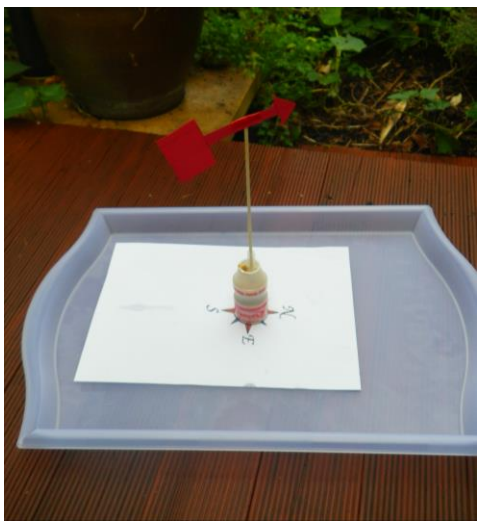
Method

1. Fill container with sand and press the half straw into it. This provides a weighted base.
2. Stick arrow to skewer end.
3. Place other end of skewer into the drinking straw.
4. Set up compass points so that N points to North. (Road maps, Apps, Google maps can be useful)
5. Place weather vane on compass points outside in the wind.



Experiment further

Suggestions for improvements
Will it work better if the arrow is bigger?
What happens if the arrowhead and tail are the same size?
Could you make a better one with a bamboo stake and 2L milk bottle?

In class students have also made their own rainfall measurer with an empty cool drink bottle and wind strength measurer with an empty tea bag. They may want to make one at home and have their own weather station.

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