

How does a compass work?

This week, we're going to experiment with magnetic force. Be sure to ask an adult for permission or help!

Make your own compass

You can actually make a compass at home pretty easily!

What you will need

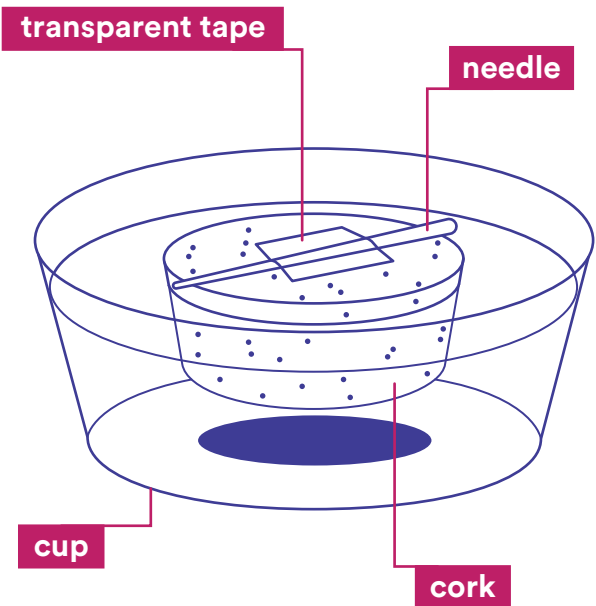
- Needle or pin
- Magnet
- Cork or sponge
- Tape
- A bowl with water in it

1. Rub the magnet along the pin or needle in one direction only. This turns the needle into a magnet!
2. Attach the pin or needle on top of the cork with sticky tape.
3. Place your cork and needle creation in the bowl of water.
4. The needle will point North! You can double check that your needle is pointing North by using the compass app on your smartphone.

What happens when you push the needle away from North? What happens when you carefully turn the bowl of water on the spot?

Fun Fact

The mole cricket (*Gryllotalpa vinnae*) is the loudest insect in the world! They dig a double hole in the ground, which *amplifies* their chirping like a trumpet or horn. The mole cricket's chirp can reach a volume of 92 decibels, which is about as loud as a lawn mower!



Did you know?

Magnets are used in microwaves, medical equipment and electronic devices such as speakers and earphones. In fact, nearly all electric machines with motor engines need magnets to work properly.

