



CAPTIVATING COMPASS WORK GRADES 1-5

Learn how to use a compass and navigate your way through Riverside's Knowledge Path using orienteering skills.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

- Cardinal directions
- Reading a compass
- Patience, attention to detail

CURRICULUM OUTCOMES:

- Use the cardinal points to locate places
- Able to give simple directions
- Compass reading activity to encourage navigation skills while orienteering outdoors

MATERIALS:

- Compass
- Outdoor space
- A computer for online videos (optional)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqCiY7MAT2U>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdSr0SzGZ2Y>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2I81_BFb-s

This is an individual or group outdoor activity, it can be done in outdoor spaces of the school, home, backyard, or nearby parks/trails.

WHAT TO DO:

Part 1: Directions

1. Take the class to the Riverside's Knowledge Path and sit in a circle.
2. Engage students in a brainstorming session. Ask them a few questions to get the discussion going:
 - a. Where's the sun?
 - b. What direction is the sun?
 - c. Which way is north?
3. Use an object, such as a stick from the path, to depict north. Explain the other cardinal directions. The mnemonic "Never Eat Shredded Wheat" will help the students remember the order of North, East, South and West.
4. Ask students to stand in different areas as a group to mark the other directions (North, South, East, and West).

Part 2: Compass

1. Name the parts of the compass. Give the following names,
 - a. "Ted"- a distant object in the direction you are heading. The name is given to all the distant objects students are orienting for
 - b. " Red"- The north pointing end of the magnetic compass are usually red in colour
 - c. " The Bed"- These are two lines on the compass dial between which the North arrow fits in. This arrow should always be "put to bed" when reading the compass.
2. Get students to memorize the following line
"Point to Ted and put them in the Red Bed."

How to:

1. Get the students to hold the compass level at their stomach level while the direction arrow points towards the 'Ted' in the distance.
2. Ensure that the compass is flat and level (many compasses have air bubbles that help them level it up). Look at the Red arrow and note which way is north.
3. When the direction is pointing at the 'Ted,' slowly turn the compass dial until 'Red,' the North arrow is framed by the two white posts of the 'Bed.'
4. With 'red' in the bed and the direction arrow pointing at Ted, students will be able to read the direction of 'Ted' using the direction arrow in the compass.
5. Educator could reinforce how to read degrees on a circle as you are reading a compass.
6. Walk to Ted, keeping Red in the Bed.

Part 3: Complete the Activity Sheet

Using the Captivating Compass worksheet, write out different cardinal directions and then map/draw the nearby environment and its sounds. Predict who is making the sound; is it coming from nature or elsewhere? Write or draw details about the sound. Estimate the approximate distance of the sound. Give details of anything special you hear or analyze.

ASSESSMENT:

Test your students' understanding of directions, asking them to point in the directions you say aloud (such as east, west, north, south) using a compass and pointing at them.

Extension:

The educator can extend this activity by encouraging students to determine different school directions, like their place (seat) in the class, gym, playground, etc. Students can take this learning back to their homes by determining the direction of their room, kitchen, and garden and, if possible, drawing a map of the same.

PHOTOS:



- a) Sketch of pointing to "Ted" and aligning the Red magnetic arrow in the "Bed" pointing North. being kept in th taken from Patterns in Relationships, Educational Activities for the school grounds) and b) if you wanted to walk Northward, you'd line up your compass this way and follow the arrow while keeping the "Red" in the "Bed" (image from: <https://50campfires.com/how-to-read-a-compass/>)

CREDIT/REFERENCES:

This activity has been modified from the Patterns in relationships, Educational Activities for the school grounds that Illene Pevec (M.A) developed and from [a nature mapping activity](#) developed by Jenny Parma.



CAPTIVATING COMPASS WORKSHEET

INSTRUCTIONS:

Write out different cardinal directions and then map/draw the nearby environment and its sounds. Predict who is making the sound; is it coming from nature or elsewhere? Write or draw details about the sound. Estimate the approximate distance of the sound. Give details of anything special you hear or analyze.

