



Natures Compass



For Teachers

Age: 4 - 11 year olds ⌚ Minimum time needed: 30 minutes

Curriculum links:

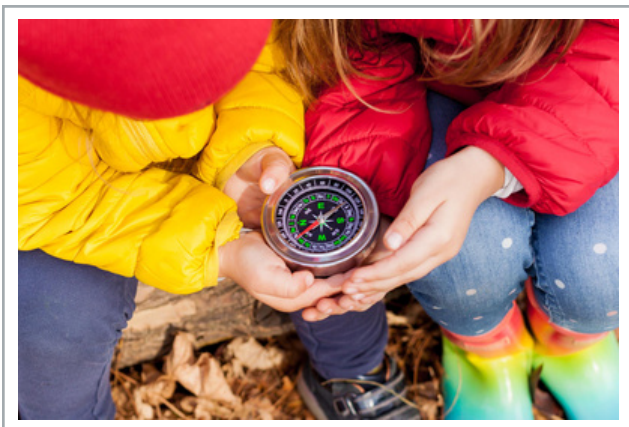
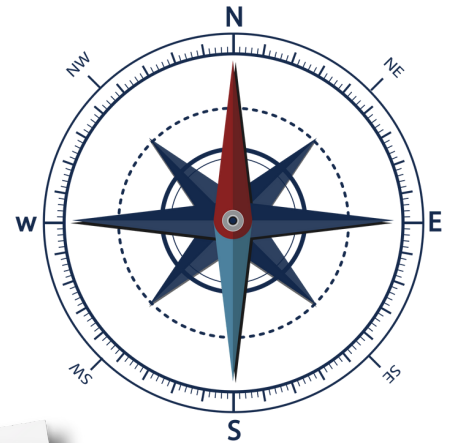
Geography

- Use the four or eight points of a compass.

Learn about compass points and investigate the effect that different compass aspects have in nature.

Get Ready

- Cards printed with the four/eight compass points on them (one point on each card)
- String to hang cards from trees
- Compasses
- Small pieces of treasure



Get Set

- Look at a compass, how it works and note the different points of the compass.
- As a class find the direction of North and hang a sign for 'North' on a tree a few metres away from where you are.
- Repeat for all of the compass points.

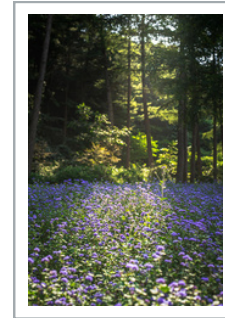


Go

- **Go compass jumping!** With the children standing in the middle of the compass points, shout out a direction for them all to jump to face.
- Repeat calling directions until they are confident. Remove the signs, can they still jump the right way?
- Tell them about **‘aspect’**, which is the direction something is facing.
- Investigate different aspects e.g. what grows on tree trunks, which way do branches point, for plants growing in open spaces, look for differences between the north and south sides.



Aspect
The direction something is facing



Discuss:

What causes the differences they have spotted?



Hint: Think about sun, rain, and wind direction




Go Beyond

Take small treasures into the forest and create simple treasure hunts, writing down clues to the hidden treasures using compass directions and the number of steps. For example, walk five paces North then two paces East.

Examine a cross section of a tree trunk's growth rings, in a forest or as picture. Discuss how different factors such as temperature can affect growth.