

# COMPASSES

## AN INSTANT MEETING FOR BROWNIES FROM THE BC CAMPING COMMITTEE

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Working with compasses provides girls with many learning experiences. Age appropriate activities allow them to develop their navigational skills while being challenged, but still having fun. The key to success in this area is explaining the basic concepts clearly, and repeating them often with a variety of games and activities.

### Brownies

- Practice the four cardinal directions, and add the four secondary points (NE, SE, SW, NW)
- Find the four cardinal directions using a compass.
- Follow a marked trail using a compass to find North, South, East, and West.

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### Meeting Plan

**Before the meeting:** Have a leader pre-set one or more trails and record the compass directions for the girls to follow.

- 5-10 min: Gathering: Compass Colouring
- 5 min: Brownie Opening
- 10-15 min: The Wedding Story
- 10-20 min: Compass Use - Theory
- 20 min: Compass Use - Practice
- 20 min: Follow the Trail
- 5 min: Brownie Closing

*90 minute meeting. Approximate activity times shown.*

### Program Connections

**Key to Camping:**  
Which Way? interest badge

**Key to the Living World:**  
1. Wondrous Walks

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### Meeting Supplies

- printed colouring resources
- pencils, crayons, markers
- compasses
- direction signs: N, E, S, W (optional: NE, NW, SE, SW)
- bean bags
- trail directions

## Compass Information

The red end of the compass needle points to the magnet North Pole.

Points on the Compass

N = 360 degrees NE = 45 degrees

E = 90 degrees SE = 135 degrees

S = 180 degrees SW = 225 degrees

W = 270 degrees NW = 315 degrees

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## How to Use a Compass

### TO TAKE A BEARING IN THE FIELD

1. Hold compass level, in front of you, and point direction-of-travel line at desired object.
2. Rotate compass housing to align pointed end of declination arrow with red end of magnetic needle (red in the shed).
3. Read bearing at index line.

### TO FOLLOW A BEARING IN THE FIELD

1. Set desired bearing at index line.
2. Hold compass level, in front of you, and turn your entire body, including your feet, until red end of magnetic needle is aligned with pointed end of declination arrow (red in the shed).
3. Travel in the direction shown by the direction-of-travel arrow.

Note: Never store your compasses in a metal container or stacked together (think of the magnet!)

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## Gathering: Compass Colouring

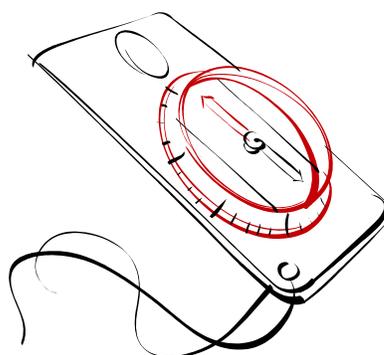
### Directions

Download a variety of resources from the Internet:

<https://www.google.ca/search?q=compass+activity+coloring&tbn=isch>

### Supplies

- printed resources
- pencils, crayons, markers



## The Wedding Story

Get some energy out and start thinking about the directions of a compass. Put signs around your space with “N”, “E”, “S”, and “W”. To make it more advanced you can add in “NE”, “SE”, “SW”, and “NW”.

### Supplies

- directions signs: N,E,S,W  
optional: NE,NW,SE,SW

### Directions

Read the following story and during the story, when directions are read out, have the girls run to the direction point of the compass. When “world” is read out, the girls come back to the middle. Allow time for the girls to get there safely before moving on.

### The Wedding

A big important wedding is being held this year. The daughter of King NORTH is being married to the son of King SOUTH. It is going to be a very grand affair with guests from all parts of the WORLD.

From the land of the rising sun, the Emperor of the EAST and his wife, the Empress, and from the other side of the WORLD, King and Queen WEST with the little Prince NORTHEAST and the Princess SOUTHWEST. The bridegroom, son of King SOUTH, has invited his cousin SOUTHEAST to be the best man. The bride, daughter of King NORTH, has asked her best friend, NORTHEAST, who is also a cousin of SOUTHEAST, to be Maid of Honor.

The Queen of the NORTH was very busy trying to find places for the visitors from all over the WORLD to stay. The Emperor EAST and his wife the Empress EAST had brought so many servants to wait on them, that the little town was beginning to be very overcrowded. To add to the confusion, King and Queen WEST had brought so much luggage that it took 3 wagons to haul it to the NORTH palace. Queen NORTH looked quite worried; where in the WORLD was she to put it all?

In the last wagon, Prince NORTHWEST and Princess SOUTHWEST had put all their pets which they couldn't bear to leave behind. They had four SOUTHWEST cats, four big dogs (which came from the other side of the WORLD), and a cow and a goat from the EAST. The cousins SOUTHEAST and NORTHEAST thought they were very odd things to bring halfway across the WORLD to a wedding.

At last the great day dawned, beautiful and sunny. The procession started to go to the NORTH Cathedral from NORTH Palace, and people from all over the WORLD cheered. After the ceremony in NORTH Cathedral, the procession returned to the NORTH Palace for the wedding breakfast. First came King NORTH, with Queen SOUTH on his arm. Next came King SOUTH with Queen NORTH. Following then came King and Queen WEST, with Prince NORTHWEST and Princess SOUTHWEST. Looking very grand in their silk robes were the Emperor of the EAST and the Empress of the EAST. The guests from this part of the WORLD came next. Cousins SOUTHEAST and NORTHEAST then appeared. Then came the moment the whole WORLD had been waiting for. The beautiful bride, daughter of king NORTH, and the handsome bridegroom, son of King SOUTH, were standing in the doorway. Guests from all over the WORLD threw confetti and rice as they ran down the steps to the famous NORTH glass coach.

After the wedding breakfast at NORTH Palace, the bride and groom left on their honeymoon around the WORLD. Prince NORTHWEST had tied an old boot on the back of the car, and Princess SOUTHWEST had printed "Just Married" on the front. The whole WORLD laughed and cheered and waved good-bye and good luck, along with Prince NORTHWEST, Princess SOUTHWEST, Cousins NORTHEAST and SOUTHEAST, Emperor and Empress EAST, King and Queen SOUTH, and finally King and Queen NORTH.

## Compass Use - Theory

Always go over the parts of a compass first, even with a group that has tried compasses before.

### Supplies

- compasses

### Directions

1. Hold the compass flat in your hand. Turn your whole body around in a circle as you watch the compass. What do you notice? The needle in the middle seems to move. Now try holding still and turning the compass slowly in your hand, leaving it flat. The needle seems to want to keep pointing in one direction as the compass turns around it. Depending on the age of the group, you may need to stop and discuss where north is and what magnets are.
2. Here's the part that they will all remember – when using a compass in the real world, remember to put Red Fred in the Shed. The red end of the magnetic needle, which points to north, is Red Fred. The orienting arrow, which is drawn on the bottom of the compass and turns with the housing, is the Shed.
3. Remind them that when walking paces it is just a regular walking step.
4. Remember all girls learn differently so it is best to have a teaching compass (could be an example of a compass made from construction paper) or compasses for each girl to learn on.
5. Have the girls all find the basic directions. (Leaders to check that all girls are finding the basic directions correctly. If not, provide some one-on-one teaching). Remember to challenge them but not to overwhelm them.

## Compass Use - Practice

Do this activity in a large space – either outdoors or in a large meeting space.

### Supplies

- compasses
- beanbags

### Directions

1. Divide the girls into groups of 4. Each girl becomes one direction (“N”, “E”, “S”, and “W”). Each group receives one compass and one beanbag.
2. One girl from each team throws the beanbag as far as she can in her assigned direction. The team then runs to find the beanbag. The second girl then sets the compass in the spot where the beanbag was found, stands to face her given direction and throws the beanbag. The game continues in this way.
3. Make sure leaders are circulating to ensure that the girls are using their compass properly. Each girl should have at least 2-3 turns before moving onto the next activity.

## Follow the Trail

Have a leader pre-set one or more trails for the girls to follow.

### Supplies

- compasses
- trail directions

### Directions

1. Divide the girls into in small groups of 2-4 girls.
2. Make sure each group has one or more compasses and provide them with a starting point and directions. Brownies may require a leader to read directions for each group.