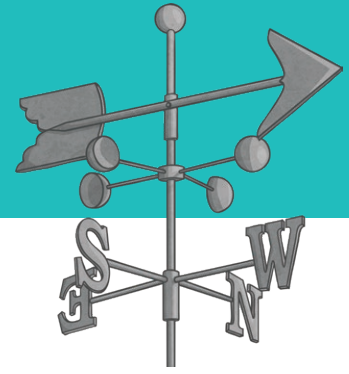




Take It Outside: Winter Weather Vanes



Introduction

A hands-on STEM activity linked to the Take It Outside: Winter story, 'The Bear Who Stole the Chinook'. The chinook is a strong wind that occurs in the North American mountains. Use this super STEM activity to investigate the wind this winter.

You will need:

- Ball of clay, plasticine or playdough
- Straw
- Cardboard, construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil with an eraser tip
- Coloured pens
- Pin
- Compass

Key Questions

- What season is it?
- What is the weather like?
- Can you feel/see/hear/smell the wind?
- From which direction is the wind blowing?

What to do:

1. 'Take It Outside' and observe the weather - what is it like today? What signs can you see that indicate what the forecast could be?
2. Next, use your senses to explore the wind - can you see any clouds? Are they moving? Can you feel the wind? Can you see the wind? How?
3. Move on to look at the compass. Which direction do you think the wind is blowing from? Work in groups to find north using the compass. You could spend time recalling the compass points - do you know a rhyme to help remember them?
4. Explain the purpose of a weather vane. It is an instrument which shows the direction of the wind. With the children working in groups, give instructions for them to make their own weather vanes.
 - Cut an arrow and a tail out of the card (or construction paper).
 - Cut a notch at each end of the straw and slide the arrow in one end and the tail in the other.
 - Roll a ball of clay (or similar) and stick the tip of the pencil into it.



- Attach the straw to the eraser tip using a pin. Be as close to the centre as you can. Make sure the straw can spin.
- Either on a square piece of card or by drawing with chalk on the yard, use the compass to mark the compass points north (N), south (S), east (E), west (W).
- Stand your weather vane in the centre of your compass markings and watch the wind!

Ways to Support

Fasten pieces of coloured wool or coloured tissue paper to a stick and hold it up to observe the direction of the wind.

Ways to Extend

Make a weather journal and record the wind direction and weather over time. Can you spot a difference between the seasons? Watch a weather report and notice the weather that comes with the wind.

Curriculum Links

Geography: Use the eight points of a compass; describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, such as the weather.