

The World Compass

The Task

To learn about the compass and cardinal directions.

How?

- Draw or mark out a large circle on the ground to represent a compass rose. The bigger the better!
- Add the cardinal directions, North, East, South and West on the compass.
- Place a box or a bag in the centre of the compass containing all the compass points on pieces of paper.
- Participants will then take part in a race. On the blow of a whistle or a simple “321 go!” they will run to the centre of the compass, pick up a piece of paper, then run to that point on the compass. They then have to call out where they are standing before running back to the centre and swapping their paper.
- Keep going until you blow the whistle or shout “stop!”.
- You can develop the game by adding in countries, famous cities or different animals and where they live on the planet. E.g. Scotland is in the north, New Zealand is in the south, Tokyo is in the east, polar bears live in the north, penguins live in the south etc.
- To increase the challenge add the intercardinal directions; North-East, South-East, South-West and North-West.

Considerations

- The area to be used.
- Should it be competitive or not?
- What level of challenge is appropriate for your group?



What will you need?

Suitable area of flat ground.

A compass.

Chalk or cones to mark out the compass rose.

A bag or box containing pieces of paper with your cardinal / intercardinal directions on and possibly names of countries, animals etc.

A whistle is useful.



Organisation & Layout

- Select a suitable flat area, free from hazards and with enough space for children to run around.
- Ensure participants can be seen at all times.
- Divide the class into smaller groups if you think there are too many.
- Prepare equipment in advance.

Learning Objectives

- Target Curriculum level 1,2,3 depending on how advanced you make it.
- Social studies – geography - cardinal directions, countries of the World.
- Sciences, Earth's magnetic field. Where animals live – adaptations to environments.
- Technologies, how a compass works.
- Health and Wellbeing, movement skills, exercise, having fun!
- Mathematics – use angles. E.g. north is 0° , east is 90° , south is 180° , west is 270° etc.

Safety Information

- Define an area suitable for the age and attainment level of your group.
- Set some ground rules to avoid people bumping into each other.

Review & Assessment

- Draw a poster of a compass rose.
- Add intercardinal directions or examples of countries, cities, animals etc.
- Have a quiz e.g: Which direction on a compass is magnetic? Which direction is on the right when you look at a compass? Which direction is at the bottom of the Earth? Give an example of a country in the North? Name an animal that lives in the South? Etc..



Additional Links & Support

[Blairvadach The World Compass - YouTube](#)

[Cardinal Directions - Wiki](#)

[Compass points - Twinkl](#)