

High Plains Regional Climate Center

727 Hardin Hall, 3310 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, NE 68583-0997

<http://www.hprcc.unl.edu> | (402) 472-6706 | fax: (402) 472-8763

Let's Build an Anemometer!

Materials Needed:

- Five 3 oz. paper cups
- Two straws
- One pencil with an eraser
- One pushpin
- Single-hole paper punch
- Tape
- Permanent magic marker

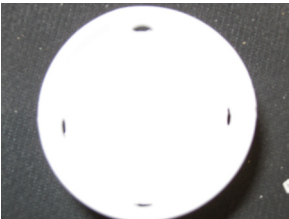


Procedure:

1) Using the single-hole punch, punch one hole in each cup that is approximately 1/2 inch below the rim.



2) Take one of the cups and punch one hole which is directly opposite of the first hole. Punch two more holes in that cup so that there are four holes in the cup which are equally spaced.



3) Take the cup with four holes and trace the pencil in the center of the bottom of the cup. Then, take the push-pin and cut out the hole.



4) Take one of the one-hole cups and slide one of the straws through it. Bend the end of the straw that is inside the cup and tape it to the cup.



5) Push the other end of the straw through the five-hole cup and then through the hole in one of the one-hole cups. As before, tape the straw to the inside of the cup, making sure that the cups face opposite directions.



6) Repeat steps 4 and 5 with the remaining cups. Make sure the open ends of the cups do not face each other.



7) Insert the pencil through the bottom hole of the five-hole cup and push the pin through the two straws into the eraser of the pencil.



8) On one of the four outer cups, draw a large X using a magic marker.



Your anemometer is ready to use! Count the number of times the X spins around. 10 spins per minute, or one spin every six seconds, is 1 mile/hour. How fast is the wind blowing?