

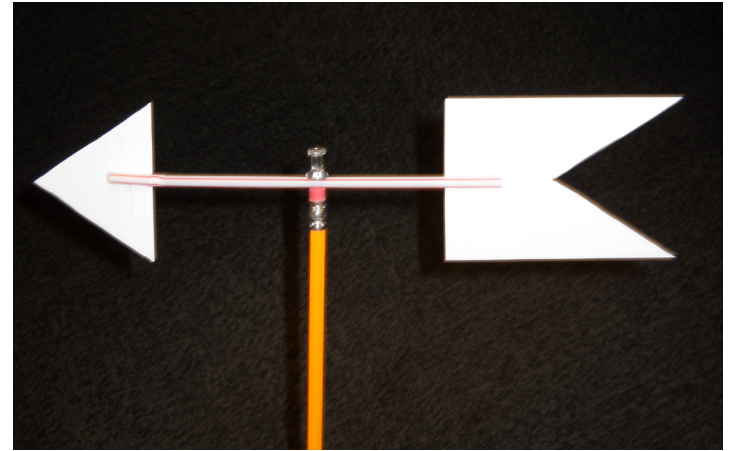
High Plains Regional Climate Center

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Let's Build a Wind Vane!

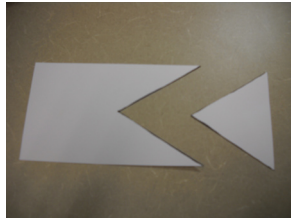
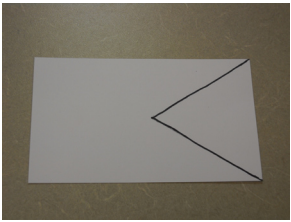
Materials Needed:

- Index card of any size
- Pencil with an eraser
- Pushpin
- Straw
- Tape
- Scissors
- Compass (optional)

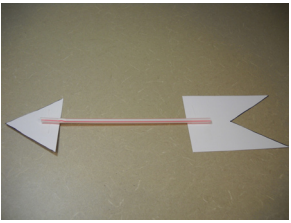


Procedure:

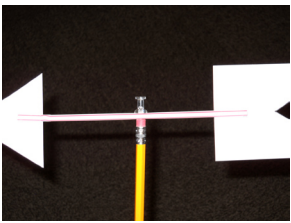
1) Draw a triangle on the edge of the index card (see below). Cut out the triangle.



2) Tape the pieces to separate ends of the straw.



3) Poke the pushpin through the top of the straw and then into the eraser of the pencil. The straw should be able to move freely from side to side.



4) Your wind vane is now ready to use! Place outside in an open area and watch the wind change directions!

Fun Facts

Why do meteorologists use wind vanes?

- Wind vanes are used to determine the direction of the wind. Wind vanes are also called weather vanes.

What do wind vanes look like on a weather station?

- Wind vanes that are on weather stations look a lot like the one you made! The biggest differences are that the wind vane on a weather station is made out of metal and the wind direction is recorded by a small computer (data logger) that stores the data at the station. (The wire in the picture connects the wind vane to the data logger.)



The arrow points in the direction that the wind is blowing. If the arrow is pointing south, the wind is blowing from the south.

Tip: You may want to take a compass outside with you for accurate wind directions.