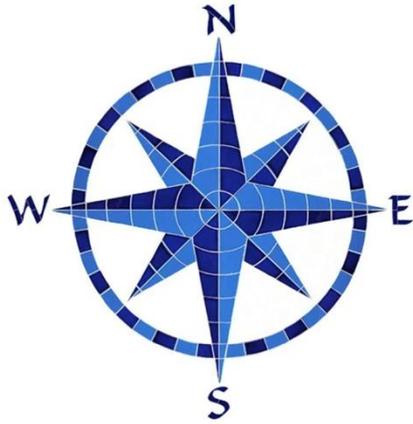




Where Are You?



Long before GPS and cell phones, Islanders needed to know how to get around on the land and in the water. It's great to have a map (and the museum has tons) but if you don't know what direction you are facing, a map is almost useless. How can you find North, South, East and West?

Lesson

Study the compass rose above. What does N mean? Can you point in that direction now? How can you figure out directions without technology?

Use the sun

Did the sun come up today? Do you know from what direction? The sun always rises in the East and sets in the West. If you face East and your back is to the West, then North is always on your left and South is on your right.

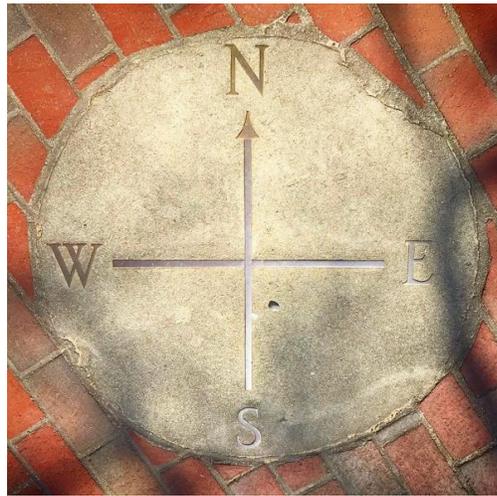
Use your community

Look on the ground. Many towns have compass roses on the ground, maybe in the sidewalk or in a public space like at a park or lighthouse.

Look in the air. Many, many buildings in every town have weathervanes. Look for the N, S, E or W. These cardinal directions are fixed; the wind doesn't move them.



Edgartown Lighthouse



In the sidewalk, North Water St., Edgartown



Main St., Vineyard Haven



Oak Bluffs

Activities

1. Look to the West in the late afternoon and draw a sunset. Think about why people like to see sunsets. Why do you think that is? Where do people go on the Island to see them? If you can't see a sunset, draw from memory.
2. Make your own compass rose. Use a ruler or a book for straight lines. Trace jar lids or dishes to get nice circles. Be as fancy or plain as you like! Or follow [this tutorial](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jyONxan3A)
3. ULTRA CHALLENGE!!! Go outside with someone from your family and close your eyes. Don't peek! Have them carefully lead you in any direction. Let them carefully and slowly spin you. Open your eyes. What direction are you facing? Ask for help from someone who has GPS to see if you are correct. Keep practicing.

Have fun going out and about finding North, South, East and West!

