

COMPASSES

AN INSTANT MEETING FOR SPARKS FROM THE BC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Working with compasses provides girls with many learning experiences. Age appropriate activities allow them to develop their navigational skills while being challenged, but still having fun. The key to success in this area is explaining the basic concepts clearly, and repeating them often with a variety of games and activities.

For Sparks:

- Learn the four cardinal directions (North, South, East, and West)
- Demonstrate using a compass to find north

* Meeting plan from the *Treasure Box* resource.

Meeting Plan

- 5-10 min: Gathering: Direction Colouring
- 5 min: Spark Opening
- 10-15 min: Story Maps
- 5-10 min: Who is North?
- 5 min: Name That Wall
- 10 min: Simon Says
- 5 min: Direction Dance
- 5 min: Spark Closing

60 minute meeting. Approximate activity times shown.

Program Connections

Going Camping Keeper

Additional activity

Being Healthy Keeper

Move to the Beat

Meeting Supplies

- printed colouring sheets
- pencils, crayons, markers
- storybook
- paper
- compass
- Santa item
- chair or small table
- tape
- "Stand" song by REM
- music player

Gathering: Direction Colouring

Directions

Find colouring sheets to print in the BC Girl Guides Treasure Box resource.

<http://www.bc-girlguides.org/Documents/BC/program/TreasureBox2013-Colouring.pdf>

Supplies

- printed colouring sheets
- pencils, crayons, markers

Story Maps

You can also search online for “Fairy Tale Maps” for alternate instructions and ideas.

Directions

1. Read a story.
2. Create a map based on the details in the story.
3. Work individually or in groups.

Supplies

- crayons or coloured pencils
- paper
- storybook (fairy tales work well)

Who is North?

Objective: to learn that the compass needle always points one way.

Directions

1. Explain to the girls that the red compass needle points North (think of who lives at the North pole and what colour he is known for!).
2. Have girls in a circle. In the middle, place a compass on a chair.
3. Figure out which girl is North by seeing where the red needle points.
4. Give her the Santa item. This is now the ‘Santa girl.’
5. Have the girls walk around the circle until the leader says stop.
6. When stopped, have the ‘Santa girl’ check the compass.
7. Who is North now? Give her the Santa item.
8. Now and then, act surprised, turn the compass, wiggle it, shake it, etc.

Supplies

- compass
- Santa item
- chair or small table

Name That Wall

Directions

1. Look at the compass together to decide how the room should be labeled. If each girl has a direction sign that they coloured during the Gathering, work individually with each girl to figure out where in the room her sign should be taped to the wall.
2. Use the signs to play Simon Says.

Supplies

- direction signs from Gathering
- tape
- compass

Simon Says

Use this game to learn compass points.

Directions

1. A leader is “Simon”.
2. The leader calls out directional commands starting with “Simon says”. For example: “Simon says run to the North wall”. “Simon says hop on one foot to the South wall”. Etc.
3. When the command is not started with “Simon says”, i.e. “Tip toe to the East wall” – any girl who follows the command is out.
4. Continue for several rounds.

Supplies

- direction signs from Gathering

Direction Dance

Directions

1. Do the “Name that Wall” activity to label the walls North, South, etc.
2. Listen to the song “Stand” by REM.
3. Have the girls make up actions or dances that go with the words in the song, i.e. Stand in the place where you are, Face North, etc.
4. The song does not use every direction, so you may want to choose other words in the song as cues, i.e. ‘sun’ = face South, ‘compass’ = face East.

Supplies

- “Name that Wall” signs for each direction (see Gathering Colouring sheets)
- “Stand” song by REM – you can find this on YouTube at http://youtu.be/AKKqLI_ZEEY or purchase the mp3 song online
- music player: mp3 player, cell phone or computer (to play YouTube video)