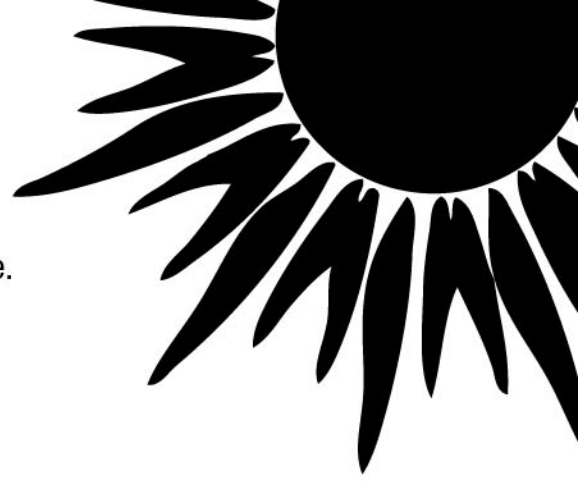


Find Direction Without a Compass

The Earth has a magnetic field that allows the needle of a compass to point north so you can always find your direction. But what if you don't have a compass? Here are several ways to find your direction without one. They are all for the northern hemisphere. And here's a helpful tip to remember – the Sun always rises in the east and sets in the west.



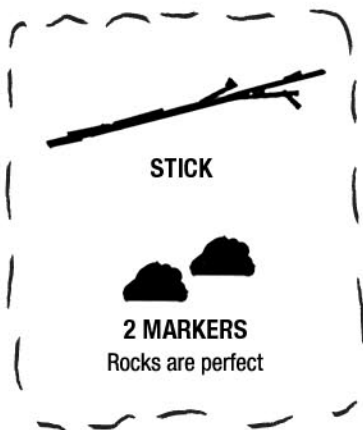
Things You'll Need:



1. WATCH METHOD

Put the watch on the ground or a flat surface. Point the hour hand at the sun. Then find the center point between the hour hand and the 12 o'clock mark on the watch. That's the north/south line. If you're in the northern hemisphere and facing north, the sun will be on your right, or to the east, in the morning, and on your left, or to the west, in the afternoon.

Things You'll Need:



2. DAYTIME SUN SHADOW METHOD

The sun moves across the sky from east to west and its shadow gradually changes in length, which is what makes this direction finding method work.

Clear a flat area of dirt or sand. Grass will work, but not as well. Find a stick about 2 or 3 feet long and poke it into the ground so it stands up. Get a marker like a rock and place it exactly on the end of the shadow line. Relax for a half hour – enjoy being outside, sit in the shade of a tree and look for insects or something. After a half hour, place another marker at the end of the new shadow.

The line between the two markers runs in an east-west direction, with the first mark being west and the second being east. If you are in the northern hemisphere, north is perpendicular to the east-west line heading away from the sun.

