

HOW TO READ A COMPASS AND MAP

I know, I know, we live in a world of GPS and cell phones, and goodness knows what else. But the fact remains we also live in a world of dead batteries and broken electronics. The great thing about a compass - you can even make your own if you have to.

FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE



EARN THIS NUGGET

- Get a compass and familiarize yourself with it.
- Get a map of your local area and locate your starting point.
- Plan a place you want to go that doesn't have roads or marked trails.
- Navigate and travel to that location ... with adult supervision, of course.

LEVEL 6

PERIOD 6

TASK 1

So, we are going to look at how to use a compass and a map, and then try it out. The first thing you need to know about a compass is that the needle always points north. The needle is a magnet, so make sure you are away from any metal. Don't use it inside a car, for example. That magnetic needle will point north when the compass is held in a flat position.

1. The first exercise is to hold the compass and look at where the needle is pointing. Now rotate it so that north on the compass and the needle are together. Now by looking at the dial you can tell what direction you are facing.

2. Now, if you have a map, knowing the top of the map is always north, you can orientate the map so you are looking at the map and you know exactly what is in every direction (as long as you know where you are to begin with).

3. From here it is quite easy to plan a route. See where you want to go on the map. Look at what direction you need to travel to get there. You can even measure the distance. Most compasses have a ruler on them and the map will have a distance scale.

4. Then, as you walk, keep checking your compass by orientating it to the north, ensuring you are still traveling the direction you need to.

5. One other compass trick:

When you know what direction you need to travel, look for a faraway nonmoving object, not a car or a cow, that is in the exact direction you are going. Then travel to it and repeat. This keeps you totally straight. Some compasses have a sight for this purpose.

