

Compass Treasure Hunt

A good way to get children engaged and learning, while still having fun is by setting up a compass based treasure hunt. Most smart phones now have a compass app on them making this all the more easy. It can be done in different ways in varying degrees of difficulty depending on the age of the child and how much time you want it to take.



← This is what the compass app looks like on an iPhone. As you turn the phone it will tell you which way it is facing. This picture shows that the phone was facing South (S).

Alternatively, if you own a real compass you → can use this to show them how it can be done without technology. Compasses use magnets to help locate north. The top picture shows it facing North (N), and in the bottom picture it is facing West South West (WSW).

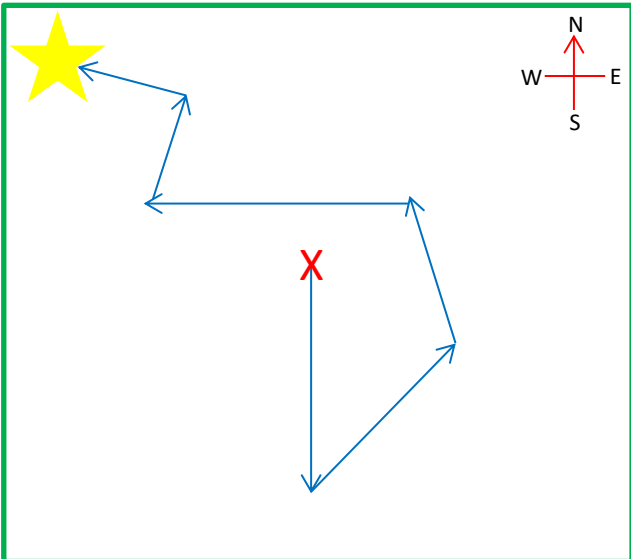
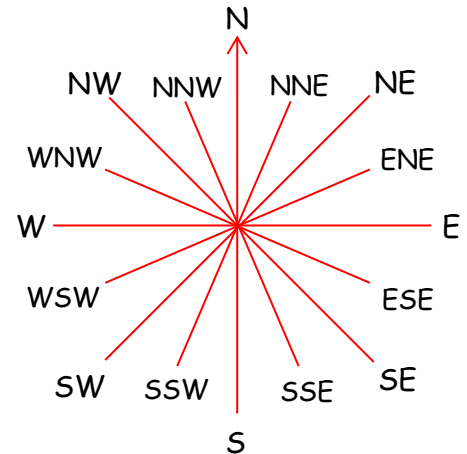
Placing it on a flat surface and turning it slowly to face a certain way will give you a more accurate result.



Here are the main compass points that are worth learning. With younger children we suggest learning the basic four points first and then working onwards. These 16 directions can be used to create treasure hunts.

To create a hunt hide some treats, toys or clues in the area you are using. The level of difficulty you want to create is up to you.

For the easiest version, you could hide things in a few selected places and then tell the child to walk South (S) until they find one. Then return back to the starting position and go North West (NW) to find the next thing.



For a harder version you could create a trail that they have to follow with their compass to get to the treasure. The example shown would have the clues:

Start at the cross

Walk 5 6 steps

Walk NE 4 steps

Walk NNW 3 steps

Walk W 7 steps

Walk NNE 2 steps

Walk WNW 2 steps

Find the treasure!

You can create a few different routes, and also get children to create some trails for each other tomorrow. You could do a series of them where each one leads to a clue, which can all be collected together at the end to create one sentence or big clue.