



The Hatchet Survival Guide

Chapter 16

Recommendations: For students in Grades 6-9. Activity can be done inside or outside.
Adult supervision recommended.

Purpose: Accompany reading a novel with learning some real survival skills

Materials:

- The Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
 - Free online pdf (*contains minor typos*) <https://scotland.k12.mo.us/view/637.pdf>
 - Audio: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cy8MLMx0Brc>
- Activity Materials will be included with instructions for the specific activities below

Chapter Summary: Just as he thinks he is getting the hang of things; Brian is thrown for a loop with another animal encounter and a truly spectacular force of nature.

Survival Skill 16 –Reading the Weather

“It was wind, wind like the sound of a train, with the low belly roar of a train. It was a tornado. That was it! The roar of a train meant bad wind and it was coming for him.”

Wind and clouds are helpful indicators of pending weather. Being able to correctly interpret patterns of wind and clouds can give you knowledge of coming weather which allows you time to make any necessary preparations.

To keep track of your own wind and weather patterns. Follow the below instructions to make your own windsock! Then continue reading information on this page to learn more about wind and cloud interpretation.

Purpose: Detect wind direction at a glance, improving your ability to track and predict weather.

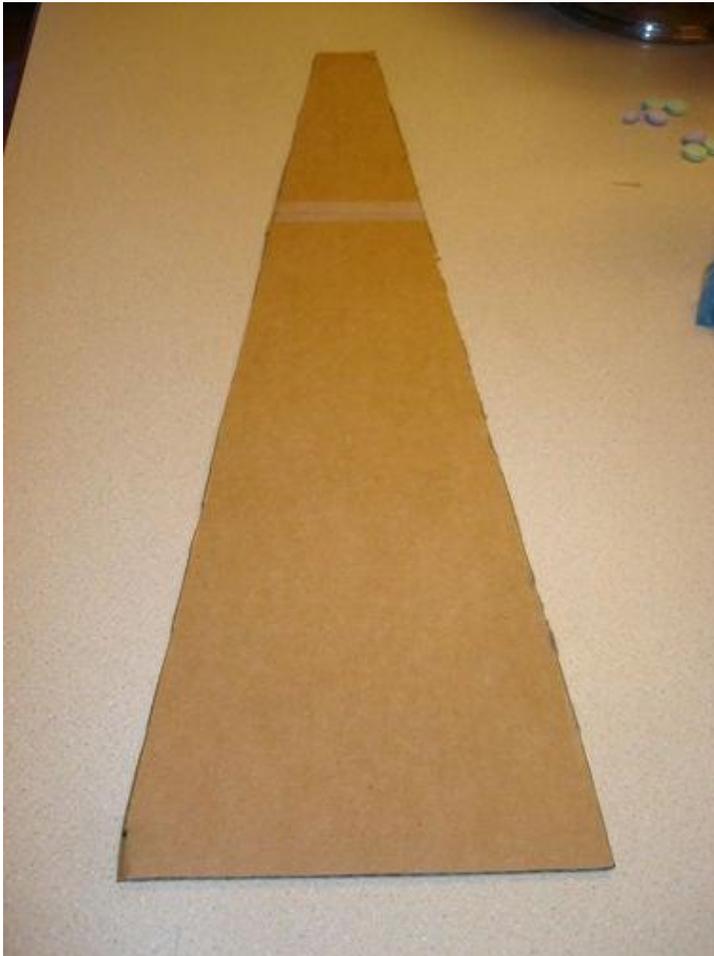
Materials:

- Large piece of cardboard
- Material (*ripstop nylon is suggested by the pros but use an old pillowcase or whatever you have*)

- Needle & thread or hot glue gun
- 4 equal length pieces of string or thin rope (~1ft long each)

How It Works:

Step 1: Use the piece of cardboard to make a template like the one below. If you need to cut and tape a couple of pieces of cardboard together to make it work, that is okay! We found that a piece of cardboard the length of your arm from fingertip to shoulder works well.



Step 2: Use the cardboard template that you just made to trace and cut out 2 pieces of material. Rip stop nylon is recommended but can be hard to find so consider using an old pillowcase, a worn-out towel, or any other lightweight material that you have laying around.



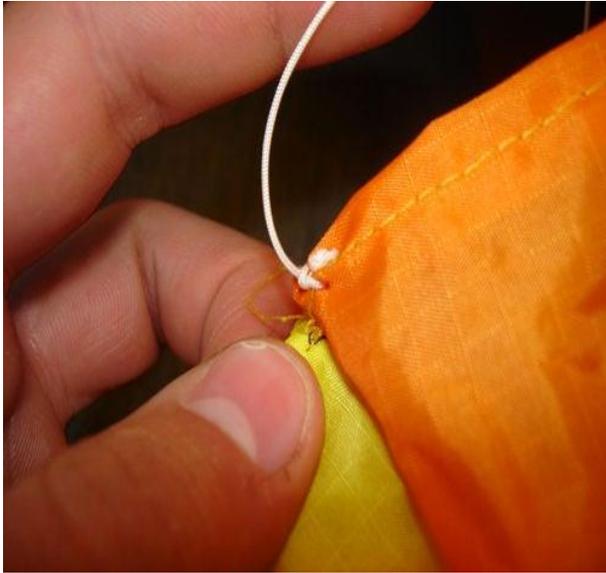
Step 3: Line up the pieces of material one on top of the other and attach the two long edges together. To attach them you can choose to sew with needle and thread or use a hot glue gun.



Step 4: Reach your arm through the wide opening, hook your finger through the narrow opening, and then pull back to reverse the sock. This hides your thread/glue lines.



Step 5: Poke four small holes around the wide opening. Tie one piece of string to each hole and then tie the loose ends of all four strings together, making a bridle to hang the windsock.



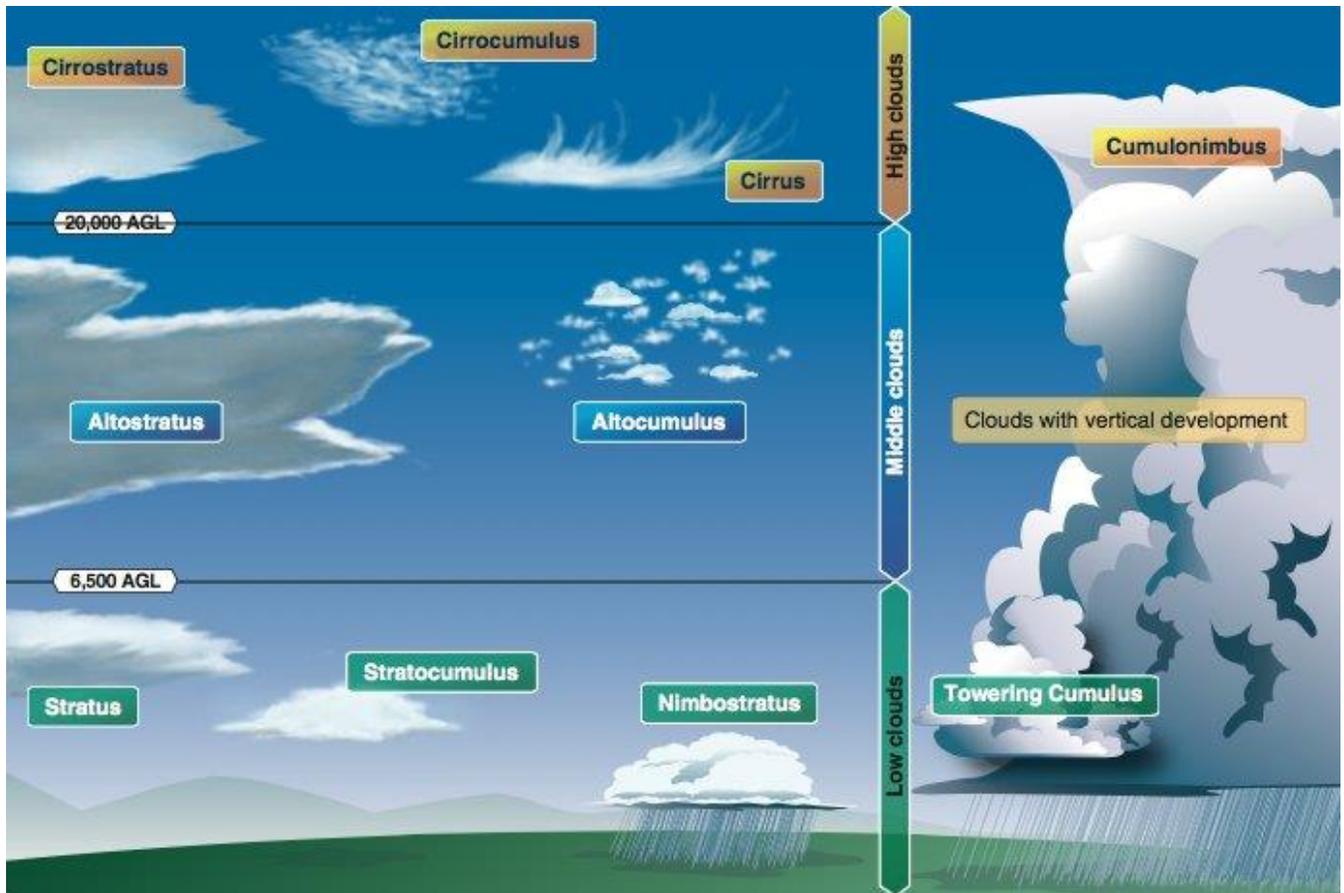
Step 6: Hang your windsock in an area exposed to wind. A tree, fence post, bird feeder, etc. When you hang it up, figure out the cardinal directions from that spot using a compass, gps, or asking an adult. Make the compass or at least a North arrow, that way when you look at the sock you will also be able to immediately see which direction the wind is coming from.

Extension: Make a chart like the one below to record the daily wind, clouds, and weather. After collecting data for a week, two weeks, a month or more, see if you can analyze and find any patterns.

Date	Windsock	Clouds	Weather	Other Notes
May 1st	East wind	Altostratus, grey and overcast	Mild but windy	Feels damp but no rain

What Does It All Mean??

The infographic below shows the four different categories of clouds (*low, middle, high, and vertical development*) and specific cloud names within those categories.



Here is a cheat sheet for what these different clouds can mean.

High Altitude:

Cirrus: fair weather cloud

Cirrocumulus: fair weather may change

Cirrostratus: arrival of a warm front (precipitation in 1-2 days)

Middle Altitude:

Altocumulus: fair weather may change

Altostratus: precipitation may be coming in the next few hours

Low Altitude:

Stratocumulus: sometimes rain or snow

Stratus: fair weather stable

Cumulus: fair weather cloud

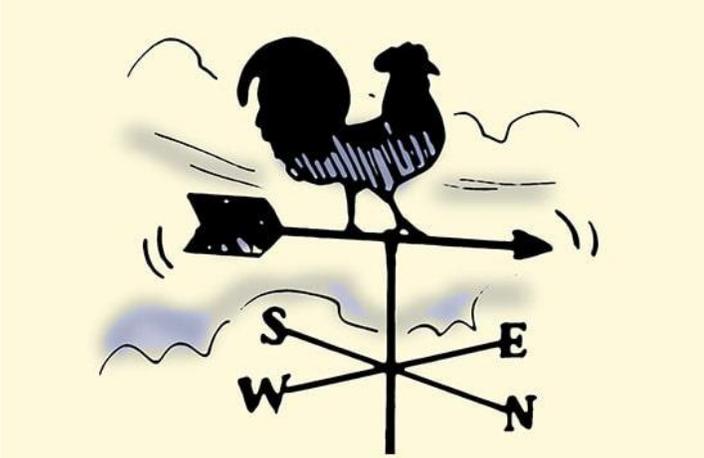
Vertical Development:

Towering Cumulus: rising from low altitude to middle means light showers coming

Cumulonimbus: as this cloud builds higher and darkens, it means more heavy rain.

An “anvil head” cumulonimbus indicates thunderstorms

Wind also matters but to keep it simple, just memorize this:

<p><i>Wind from the East, Weather is a beast.</i></p> <p><i>Wind from the North, Good weather come forth.</i></p> <p><i>Wind from the South, Rain in your mouth.</i></p> <p><i>Wind from the West, Weather is best.</i></p>	
---	---

The general direction of the wind can be a great indicator of the type of weather moving into your area. An Easterly wind (meaning the wind is coming *from* the East and blowing *towards* the West) means an approaching low-pressure system, and poor weather. A North wind brings the cold chill of the Northern environs (but in summer this is a pleasant day), a South wind brings warm (but humid) conditions often resulting in rain, and Western winds bring the fairest weather of all — mild temperatures and dry air.

For more weather proverbs and how they work, check out this website:

<https://www.artofmanliness.com/articles/22-old-weather-proverbs-that-are-actually-true/>

See “The Hatchet Chapter 17 & 18” on the Gould Lake website for more content!