



Wild Wild Westerly Wind

Windsock & Weathervane Activity

Recommendations: For grades 1 to 3. Activity can be done inside or outside. Adult supervision recommended.

Purpose: Construct your own contraption to study wind and weather patterns.

Materials:

- 1 piece of construction paper (*regular printer paper works too*)
- Colours (*crayons, markers, or paint, etc.*) for decorating
- Tissue paper (*enough to make 5-10 strips*)
- A piece of string, twine, yarn, or thin rope

How It Works:

Context: In science students learn about precipitation, heat, and weather cycles. In geography students learn about prevailing features of Canada such as its Westerly Wind. To study an intersection of these topics you can create your very own windsock!

Step 1: Lay your piece of paper on a flat surface and decorate it. Colour to your hearts content; whatever design or pattern you desire. You can even try to make it look like an animal that flies or swims!

- If you use paint, allow it time to dry.



Step 2: Cut tissue paper (*can be all the same or can be different colours!*) into 5-10 streamers. The streamers should each be about 15 inches (*half a ruler*) long and only one to two inches wide.



Step 3: Flip your piece of paper so that the decorated side is facing down. Then glue or tape the top edge of each streamer to the bottom edge of the piece of paper.



Step 4: Roll the paper widthwise (*"hamburger" style*), overlapping about an inch. Be sure that the decorated side is facing out and the streamers are attached on the inside. Now tape, glue, or staple the overlapping ends together, making a tube of paper. This your windsock!



- If you use liquid glue, use clothespins or paper clips to hold the paper together until the glue dries.

Step 5: Punch two small holes in the top of the paper tube directly across from each other. Thread a piece of string through the holes and tie the ends together making a loop that is roughly 3-4 times wider than the paper tube.



Step 6: Hang your windsock! From a tree, bird feeder, deck rail, fence post, or inside in front of a fan –anywhere it will be exposed to wind.



Step 7: To use the windsock properly you will need to determine the cardinal directions of the area where you hang the windsock. Mark a full compass or at least a North arrow near your windsock so that when the streamers or full sock is caught in the wind you can determine which way it is blowing.

Step 8: Go out and hang your windsock each day. Watch and record which way the wind is blowing. After a week or so, (*a full month will show best results*), look at the data you have recorded. Do you see any patterns? Which way was the wind blowing most often? Which way was it blowing least often?

Resources:

The paper windsock will not hold well against rain, snow, or even morning dew and so it will have to be brought inside. You can consider making a windsock out of other materials:

For Making a Plastic Windsock

- Cut a 1 in (2.5 cm) ring from a plastic bottle. ...
- Punch 2 holes into the plastic ring. ...
- Thread a piece of string through the holes to make a handle. ...
- Cut 1 in (2.5 cm) wide strips from a plastic bag. ...
- Tie the strips to the plastic ring using slipknots. ...
- Hang the windsock from a hook.

For a long-lasting Fabric Windsock: <https://www.instructables.com/id/Portable-Windsock/>

Ontario Curriculum:

Grade 1: Materials, Objects, and Everyday Structure. Energy in Our Lives.

Grade 2: Movement. Air & Water in the Environment

Grade 3: Forces Causing Movement