

1

Draw a triangle onto thick paper, then cut it out. Use a ruler to draw a 4 cm (1.6 in) line onto your paper to make a base for a triangle. Next, place your ruler perpendicular to the line at the halfway mark and trace a 5 cm (2.0 in) line to make an upside down "T." Then, use your ruler to draw lines connecting the top of the upside down "T" to each side of the base line. Finally, cut out the triangle with a pair of scissors.^[1]

- For instance, you might use a manila folder, index cards, poster board, cardstock paper, or an old cereal box.
- Use colorful paper or decorate your cutout to make your wind vane look nice.
- It's okay if your measurements are estimated.
- You'll use this triangle as an arrow point.

2

Draw a square onto thick paper, then cut it out. Make your square about 7 cm (2.8 in) long on each side, with your sides roughly even. It's okay to estimate the measurements, but it's best to draw your square larger than the

triangle. Then, use a pair of scissors to cut out the square, which will be the other end of your arrow.^[2]

- Try cutting out the corner of your paper so 2 sides of your square are already done for you. Use your ruler to measure 7 cm (2.8 in) on 1 side of your paper and draw a line. Then, measure 7 cm (2.8 in) on the bottom of your paper and draw a line that crosses your first line to create a square. Use your scissors to cut out the square.

3

Cut a 1 cm (0.39 in) slit in each end of a drinking straw. Hold your scissors parallel to the straw. Then cut an even slit through each side so that your arrow pieces will slide onto the ends of the straw. Although they don't need to be exact, your slits should be about 1 centimetre (0.39 in) long and directly opposite each other so you can stick the paper in them.^[3]

- The slit should go through both of the side walls on each end of the straw.
- If you have a drinking straw that bends, cut off the bendy part. Then, cut slits in the remaining straight section.

4

Stick the triangle and square into the slots on the straw to make an arrow. Put the triangle on one end of the straw with the point facing out. Then, slide the square onto the other end. When you're finished, your straw will look like an arrow.^[4]

- If the triangle and square won't stay in place, put a dab of glue onto the paper before you slide it into the straw. Hold the paper in place for about 1-2 minutes to let the glue dry. Alternatively, you can tape the triangle and square in place.^[5]

5

Put a pin through the center of the straw and into the pencil eraser. Find the center of the straw, then push the point of a straight pin through it. Keep pushing until the pin exits the bottom of the straw. Then, push the point of the pin into the center of your pencil's eraser.^[6]

- Be careful when handling the stick pin because it could poke you. If you're having trouble getting the pin to go into the eraser, ask an adult to help you.
- Make sure the straw doesn't touch the eraser. The straw needs to spin freely in order for your wind vane to work.
- If the straw won't spin when you blow on the paper square or if it falls over, remove the pin and reposition it. Try sticking the pin closer to the center of the straw. If this doesn't help, trim the paper on the side of the arrow that's falling over. For instance, you might make the square smaller.

6

Use a big piece of soft clay as a quick and easy base. Roll the piece of clay into a ball. Then, press the point of your pencil into the clay. The clay will act as a weight to keep your wind vane in place.^[7]

- If your pencil keeps falling over, make your clay ball bigger.

7

Write the 4 primary and 4 intermediate directions on a paper plate. Write North (N) at the top of the plate. Then, go clockwise and write East (E) on the

right side, South (S) on the bottom, and West (W) on the left side. If you'd like, add Northeast (NE) halfway between North and East, Southeast (SE) halfway between East and South, Southwest (SW) halfway between South and West, and Northwest (NW) halfway between North and West.^[8]

- Use abbreviations to mark the directions so that they're easier to fit on the plate.

8

Push the clay ball into the center of plate to keep it in place. Press the bottom of the clay ball onto the center of the plate. Then, use your fingers to push down the edges of the clay to root it in place. This will keep your wind vane in the center of your plate while you use it to measure the direction of the wind.^[9]

- If you like, you can add more clay around the base of the ball to help keep it in place.

To view these instructions with images, go to [this link in wikihow.com](https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Wind-Vane) with a parent's permission.