

CREATE YOUR OWN STICK COMPASS



If you are lost and without a magnetic compass, fear not. You can make one with a stick and a few rocks. A compass normally works with the earth's magnetic field, but a stick compass uses the sun and shadows cast by the stick to help you find your way.

Materials:

- Straight stick 18-24 inches long
- Four large rocks
- A handful of smaller rocks



Instructions:

1. Find a flat surface in a sunny location. Dig a hole and bury the bottom six inches of the stick, leaving roughly 12-18 inches of the stick standing straight.
2. Beginning early in the morning, put a small rock at the tip of the shadow made by the stick.
3. Check in the afternoon when the shadow is the same length as it was in the morning, but in another direction. Put a second small rock at the tip of this shadow.
4. Stand with your right foot on the first rock and your left foot on the second rock. You will be facing south. As you are facing south, put one of the big rocks one foot away from the stick.
5. Put another big rock in the opposite direction at an equal distance from the stick. This will be north.
6. Place the other big rocks on the east and west sides, measuring to make sure they are equal distances from the stick. The stick will now be in the middle of four rocks, which should be the same distance from the stick in four directions.

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