

Compass Directions

READ ALOUD PASSAGE

Left and right belong to your own body and change every time you turn, so they are not reliable for giving someone else directions. Try it. Point to your right, then turn around and point to your right again. Your arm is now aimed the opposite way.

North, East, South, and West are fixed directions that belong to the Earth and are the same for every person, everywhere. If you and a friend both face north, you are facing the same way, even if you live in different towns.

You can find the four directions using the sunrise at dawn, or a shadow stick at any time the sun is out. The sun comes up in the east. Once you are facing east, west is behind you, north is on your left, and south is on your right.

A direction alone does not tell you how far to go. “Walk north” could mean ten steps or ten miles. Useful directions usually pair a fixed direction with a distance.

Activity 1: Word Sort Challenge

Sort the words in the box. Write each word under the right heading.

WORD BANK

compass fixed opposite turn friend useful sunrise point walk shadow

Nouns

Verbs

Adjectives

Activity 2: Brainstorm Details

Read the topic sentence. Write four key words or phrases that could support it. Do not write full sentences.

TOPIC SENTENCE

North, East, South, and West are better than left and right.

Key words and phrases:

- ---
- ---
- ---
- ---

Activity 3: Notes to Sentences

These are notes, not sentences. Turn each set of notes into a complete sentence.

1. left and right → change when you turn

2. sunrise → east

3. direction + distance → useful
