MAKING A WEATHER VANE

In meteorology, a wind vane or weather vane is an instrument which helps in determining the direction of the wind and helps in weather forecasting. Not only is it one of the oldest, but also one of the simplest weather forecasting instruments to make.

You will need:
- piece of card
- pencil
- scissors
- masking tape
- pen lid
- paper plate
- ruler
- black pen
- plasticine/blue tack
- yoghurt pot
- long skewer
- compass

1. First, draw a large arrow shape on the card and cut it out. Use a piece of tape to stick the pen lid to the arrow.

2. Next, using the ruler, draw one vertical and one horizontal line to divide the paper plate into four parts. Moving from top, clockwise, write North, East, South and West on each part.

3. Make a ball out of the plasticine/blue tack and put it in the centre of the plate where the two lines meet. Put the yoghurt pot on top. Tape the yoghurt pot to the plate.

4. Pierce the yoghurt pot with a skewer, pushing it through the plasticine ball. Pop the pen lid arrow onto the other end of the skewer.

5. Finally, put your wind vane outside in the garden or on a windowsill outside a window. Ask an adult to use the compass to find where north is. Align your wind vane with the compass points. Your wind vane will spin around. The arrow will point at the direction from which the wind is coming.