

**Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
FIRST GRADE**

Title of Lesson: Building a Wind Vane

Theme: Earth/Space Science

Unit Number: 1 **Unit Title:** Weather and the Seasons

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):

S1CS3

S1CS4

S1CS7

S1E1

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Wind, wind strength, weather-related instruments

Learning Activity (Description in Steps)

Abstract(limit 100 characters): This specific exercise had the students make a wind vane and use it to determine wind direction.

Details: I began by telling the students that we were going to build a wind vane and bring it outside in order to observe the wind's direction and strength. Then I gave each student the appropriate materials needed to make a wind vane: a piece of paper, a straw, a toothpick, and a piece of tape. Then I told each student to draw a big triangle in the middle of their piece of paper and to cut it out. Then I told them to tape a straw to the bottom of the triangle. I showed them exactly where using my model. Then I told them to carefully poke the toothpick through the straw. I walked around the room to help anyone who was having trouble with this step. Once everyone had their wind vane correctly built, I took the class outside to observe the wind. We stayed outside for about 15 minutes. I told the students to hold the toothpick and stay still so they could observe which way the triangle was pointing. They were also told to observe how rapidly their triangle was moving. I then took the students back inside where we discussed everyone's observations and thoughts.

Possible Questions:

- 1. In the classroom ask the students why the triangle moved in a certain direction.**
- 2. Ask the students why the triangle might have moved rapidly at some times while at other times the triangle barely moved.**

Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):

- paper
- toothpicks
- straws
- tape

Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):

Make sure the students are careful with the toothpicks so they do not poke themselves or their classmates.

Sources/References:

- 1) Teacher's Edition of the Harcourt Science Book**
- 2)**
- 3)**