



Make your own Anemometer!

What is an Anemometer?

An anemometer is a device used to tell how fast the wind is blowing. Wind is one of the many ways in which energy is produced. The faster the wind blows, the more energy is produced by the wind turbines. It takes an average wind speed of 22 Kilometres an hour to produce electricity.

Materials:

- Four small drinking cups
- Two strips of very stiff corrugated cardboard (about 45 cm will do)
- A marker
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Push pin
- Sharpened pencil with an eraser on the end
- Modeling clay

Instructions:

- Cut the rolled edge off the paper cups to make them lighter.
- Colour one of the cups with a marker to distinguish it from the others.
- Cross the cardboard pieces so they make a plus sign and staple them together.
- Staple a cup horizontally to each of the four ends of the cardboard making sure they all face the same way (like a pinwheel).
- Find the exact centre of the cardboard pieces and push the pin through the cardboard into the eraser on the end of the pencil.
- Make sure the cups spin freely (try blowing on them).
- Stick the sharpened end of the pencil into the modeling clay and make sure the anemometer stands up straight.

How to use the anemometer:

- Put your anemometer outside.
- Use a watch or clock to count how many times it spins in one minute (this is how weather stations can calculate wind speed too).
- Move your anemometer to different locations, on different days to record the changes in wind speed.

Questions for discussion:

- What does it feel like outside when the anemometer spins very fast or slow?
- Why are certain areas of the school yard more or less windy?
- How does the school building affect wind movement or flow?
- How might an anemometer help to determine weather patterns?