North, South, East, West

Grade Range: Elementary School
Lesson Time: 40 minutes

Key Terms
Cardinal directions
Compass
East
North
South
West

Materials and Resources
zView
Class set of compasses
Optional: Maps of the United States

Activity Overview
Do you know where North is? If you know your directions, you will be able to answer this question. Directions are important because they help you know where you are and where you are going! In this activity, students will learn the cardinal directions and practice following directions.

Essential Questions
1. What are directions?
2. Why do we use directions?

Objectives
● Follow directions using the cardinal directions
● Identify directions using the cardinal directions

Introduction
Have students play follow the leader. After a few rounds, discuss what they did. Discuss situations in which following directions correctly is very important.

zSpace Activity
Activity Questions Provided in Studio
Answers may vary. Sample answers are provided below.

1. Have you ever looked at a map and thought, “I’d like to go there!” Where is that place you would like to visit, and how would you get there? Find the location, dissect the map, and pull out the place where you would want to go. Take a photo.
   Photo. I want to go to Australia and I would take an airplane to get there.

2. Directions can help us get from point A to point B. We use words to help describe the location of people, places, or things. Place a star on the left side of Earth. Take a photo.
   Photo.
3. Just as we use up, down, right, and left to give directions, we often use 4 other words when describing the location of something. We call these cardinal directions. Which of these models do you think shows the cardinal directions? Place a star above the model that you believe shows the cardinal directions. Take a photo.

4. Cardinal directions are found on a compass. There are four points: north, east, south, and west. We call these the cardinal directions. How would you describe where north, south, east, and west are located? North is at the top of the Earth, south is at the bottom of the Earth, east is to the right, and west is to the left.

5. A simple saying to remember the order of the directions on the compass is: “Never eat sour worms.” You just need to remember to start at the top of the globe and move in a clockwise direction. Look at the compass. Place the big fish in the ocean to the east of the United States. Take a photo.

6. Examine this scene. Move the pig south of the cow. Take a photo.

7. Examine this scene. Move the Sun to the east. Take a photo.

8. These arrows point north, south, east, and west. Move the Notes so that the arrows are labeled correctly. Take a photo.

9. Can you follow multiple directions? Here’s your chance to give it a try! Place the flower in the glass that is south of the rabbit. Now move the tree east of the glass with the flowers. Take a photo.

10. Move the fox to the west and move the rabbit to the north of the tree. Take a photo.

11. How did you do? Let’s try one more. There are four people in the wagon. They all live in different cabins. Place each person beside the cabin where he or she lives. The green person lives in the cabin to the north. The orange person lives in the west cabin, the red person lives in the cabin to the east, and the orange/green person lives in the south cabin. Take a photo.

12. This scene is full of models. Using the cardinal directions, describe where 4 of the models are located. The flowers are south of the tree. The wagon is north of the tree. The house is west of the tree and the kids are playing east of the cows.

Closing

North, South, East, West

Instruct students to create a scene that includes at least 10 models. Allow students to share their scenes using zView. Ask students to describe where the objects the scene are located using cardinal directions.

Map of the School

Have students create a map of their school. Allow them to share their maps with the class, and ask students to identify the location of a room in the school using cardinal directions.

Using a Compass
Pass out a compass to each student or group of students. Review how to use a compass. Give students cardinal directions to a certain location in the school and have them follow the directions to figure out the final destination. For example, you could say: “Start at the classroom door. Take 5 steps west, 10 steps north, then 15 more steps west. Where are you?”

Extension Activity: Students could look at maps of the United States and locate areas based on north, south, east, and west directions

**Differentiation**

- Group students heterogeneously to allow students with a strong command of the English language to assist in reading or interpreting questions
- Provide paper copies of diagrams for students to use as a reference
- Provide a handout with a list of vocabulary terms and definitions that will appear in the activity
- Allow students to provide answers that are handwritten, typed, or verbal
- Give students a variety of presentation styles to choose from (using charts/graphs, PowerPoint, making 3D presentations, creating videos/movies, making posters)
- Have students work as partners or in small groups (younger children could partner with older buddies)
- Enrichment: Students could change an additional variable in the activity and look for patterns
- Enrichment: Students could find real-world problems involving the concept and design solutions to those problems
- Enrichment: Students could research similar topics and create presentations
- Enrichment: Students could build a model of a key concept