



There's no place like home!

Living

time

70 minutes.

learning outcomes

To:

- know who Christopher Columbus is
- show where his or her town is on a map of the whole country
- learn how to use a compass
- know the four points of the compass
- know the names and locations of some local towns

end product

- a home-made compass
- a classroom map showing where everyone in the class

lives

materials needed

- 24 drawing pins
- 12 paperclips
- 12 strong magnets
- 12 small containers
- 12 containers
- 6 corks
- 2 sheets of cork board
- A2 poster of your country
- A2 poster of your region
- Stanley knife
- sticky tape
- glue
- water

Preparation

For the activity **Make your own compass** cut the corks into slices.

Tape a large red arrow on a wall of the classroom. Make sure it is pointing towards North.

For this activity prepare a container for each pair of children, filled with a magnet, a paperclip, a slice of cork, and a small tub of water.

For the activity **North, South, East and West** ask the children the day before the lesson to look up the street where they live in a street atlas.

Obtain a map of the country and an enlarged section of a regional map showing the area around the school. Paste these maps on the sheets of cork board and hang them up in the classroom.



Columbus 15 min.

Explain to the children who Christopher Columbus was.

Christopher Columbus lived around 500 years ago. He was born in Italy and he was an explorer. In Columbus' day people knew a lot less about the world than they do now. Some people even thought the world was flat and that you would fall off the edge if you travelled too far. Columbus sailed the seas in his ship with a hundred crew members to discover good sea routes. There were hardly any maps back then. Columbus wanted to prove that the Earth was round, not flat. His voyages took him to countries that people in Europe didn't know existed. He met many different peoples.

Discuss with the children how they think Columbus made sure he wasn't sailing around in circles. Give them some hints if necessary. Then explain that Columbus used the stars to determine where he was. He also used a compass. The needle of a compass always points North. So he always knew what direction he was going in. Instruct the children to complete Task 1 on the worksheet.



They investigate how a compass works by looking at the four points of the compass.



Make your own compass 15 min.

Organise the children into pairs. Give each pair a container with the items they need to make a compass. Invite the children to complete Task 2 on the worksheet. Explain that they need to slide the magnet along the paperclip 25 times. It is important that they only slide it in one direction.



Explain that magnets have a North pole and a South pole.

When their compass is finished encourage the children to find out for themselves which direction is North.

The end of the compass that points the same way as the red arrow on the wall is the North of the compass.

Tip. Encourage the children to use their compass to navigate a route through the classroom. From where they are standing they should take three steps to the west, two to the east and one to the south. Encourage them to come up with their own-instructions.

North, South, East and West 30 min.

Discuss with the children how many points there are on a compass. Look at the compass rose on the worksheet and write the names of the points of the compass on the board. Show the children the large map of your country. Explain that the top of the map is North. Practise using the compass to name towns that are to the North, South, East and West of where you live. The children complete Task 3 on the worksheet.

Ask the children the name of the town where they live. Invite one of the children to stick a drawing pin at the correct location on the map of the country. Explain that the other map is a close-up of the town or region where the children live. This map also shows the streets. Ask each child to stick a drawing pin at the location of the street where they live. Ask the children if they live to the North, South, East or West of the school.



Ask the children what they have learned during this exercise. What direction does the needle of a compass always point to? Do the children realise that the top of the map is always North? It doesn't make any difference which way up you hold the map, North is always North.



The future of Columbus 10 min.

Explain to the children that, since Christopher Columbus's journey, the whole world has been mapped. So now we know what the whole world looks like. Far less is known about the universe. So today a lot of research is being done in space. The International Space Station (ISS) floats 400 kilometres above the Earth. This space station is a laboratory, and one part of it is called the Columbus Laboratory. It is named after Christopher Columbus.

Lots of experiments are carried out in this laboratory, so new things are being discovered all the time. The children complete Task 4 of the worksheet and discuss their answers.



45

worksheet

There's no place like home!

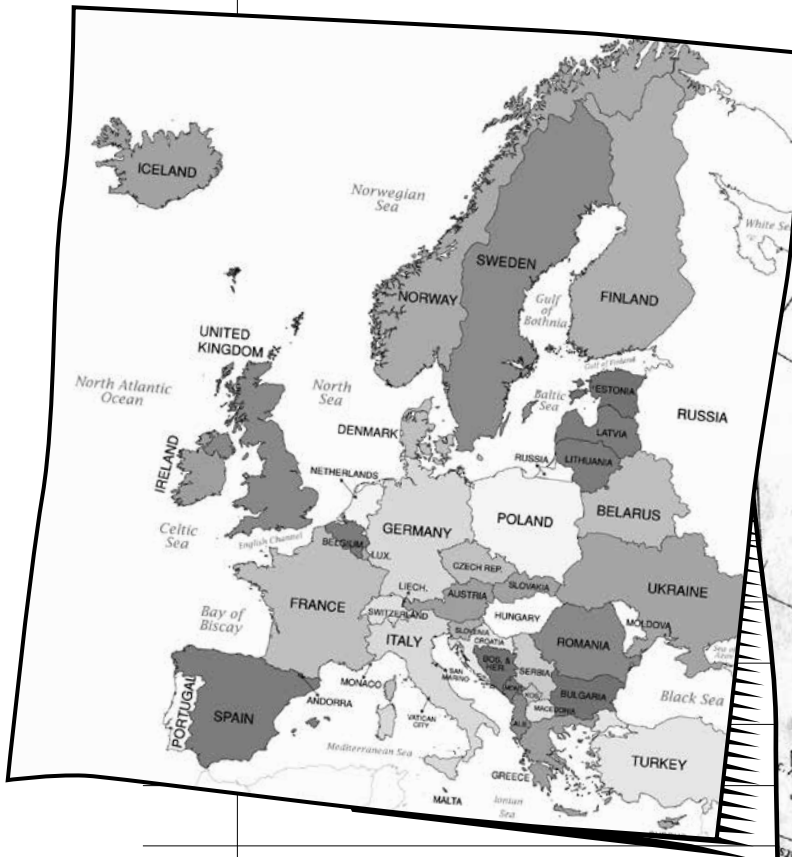
1

Columbus



About 500 years ago, when Christopher Columbus was alive, there were hardly any maps. Large areas of the Earth had still to be discovered.

150 years ago there were a lot of maps, but they looked very different from the maps of today. Take a look at the maps below.



a find at least three differences between these two maps.

describe the
differences
HERE

1

2

3

b Why do you think there are so many differences between these two maps?

2 Make your own compass

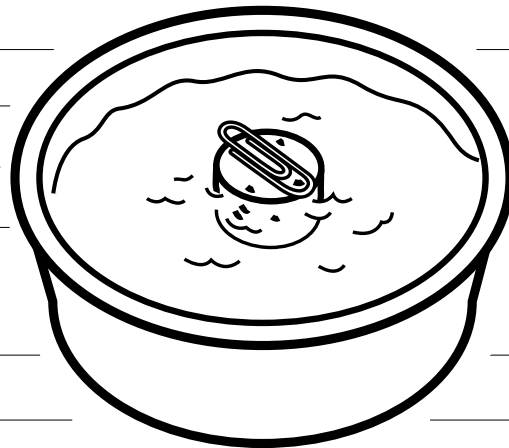


Columbus used a compass to help him find his way across the oceans.

You are going to work with your partner to make your own compass.



What do you need?

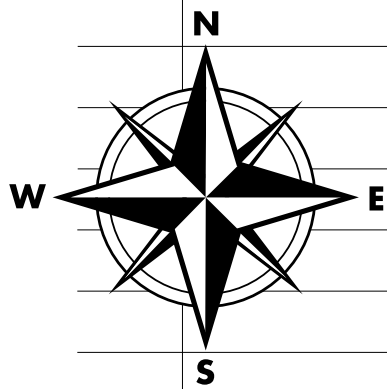
- a magnet
- a paperclip
- a slice of cork
- a tub of water



What do you need to do?

- 1 Take the magnet and the paperclip.
- 2 Hold the paperclip by one end.
- 3 Slide one end of the magnet along the paperclip 25 times.
Be sure to always slide in the same direction, not to and fro!
- 4 Lay the paperclip on the slice of cork.
- 5 Put the cork with the paperclip on it in the tub of water.

a	What happens?
	
b	What direction does the paperclip point to?
3	North, South, East and West
a	Which country lies north of Belgium?
	
b	Which country lies south of France?
c	Which country lies east of Switzerland?
d	Which country lies West of the United Kingdom?



4 The future of Columbus



Columbus is the name of part of the space laboratory floating 400 kilometres above the Earth. Why do you think it was given this name?