

# HOW TO MAKE A COMPASS

*By Kim via Kids Activities Blog*



## The supplies:

- plastic lid or shallow bowl
- needle or straight pin
- a bar magnet
- a slice of cork/Styrofoam
- some water

## STEP 1

I helped by using a knife to slice off a piece of cork. This cork was a bottle stopper left over from some decorative bottle we once had. A wider piece of cork might work better though.



## STEP 2

Hold the needle in one hand and slid one side of the bar magnet along the length of the needle. It is important that you don't slide the magnet back and forth on the needle. Just slide it in one direction, lift it up, and repeat. Now the needle is a magnet!



### STEP 3

Pour some water in the plastic lid.



### STEP 4

Place the cork in the water and put the needle on top of the cork. It may take a minute to get the needle balanced well on the cork but eventually it will smoothly spin so that the needle points to the North.



The cork allows the needle to float on the water and creates a frictionless environment in which it can move freely.