

Demo Guide: Wind Observations

Materials:

- Pole (could be a column on your house or fence, or free standing. Make sure wind is not blocked from any direction.)
- Rubber band, rope or string
- Ribbon, scarf, or other lightweight material



Instructions:

- 1) Attach your material or ribbon to a pillar or pole outside by tying it with rope or using a rubber band. A free standing pole works well. Make sure wind from all directions can move your wind vane.
- 2) Check your wind vane on breezy days. Note which direction your wind vane is pointing.



Questions to ask:

- What direction is your wind vane blowing on a day that is getting warmer?
- What direction is your wind vane blowing on a day that is getting colder?
- Does your wind vane change directions a lot? Or does it usually blow in the same direction?
- Do you notice a change in your wind vane in different seasons?
- In the Front Range of Colorado, wind sometimes blows from the west, and sometimes blows from the northeast. What does that mean for how weather is changing?

Tell me about wind:

Wind is the horizontal movement of air. Air moves from high air pressure to low air pressure. Wind will be faster when there is a bigger difference in air pressure.

In North America the jet stream blows from the west to the east. The jet stream is fast wind, at about the height of airplanes.