Explore the Phenomenon!

Lesson Anchor

Make an origami boat compass

Origami is the practice of folding paper into fun and interesting shapes. We are going to use an origami boat as a compass! If you put a bar magnet in an origami boat, it will naturally turn its north end towards the magnetic north pole of the Earth, exactly how a compass does.

What you'll need:

- one bar magnet
- one pair of scissors
- a bin of water (one per group)

What you'll do:

- Step 1- Cut out a square piece of origami paper.
- Step 2- Fold your paper into the shape of a boat.
- Step 3- Float your boat in still water. Put a magnet in your boat. Watch your boat turn to the north!

