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# Activities

## Magnetic Compass

Name: _____ Date: _____

Long before GPS, magnetic compasses helped people figure out where they were going. You'll find out how they work and how to make your own in this Planet Diary activity.

### Directions

- Start with this introduction to How Compasses Work. Answer Workspace questions 1 and 2.
- People have used magnetic compasses for thousands of years. Scroll to *What the Ancients Knew: Chinese Magnetic Compass* at the bottom of the page. After watching the video, answer questions 3 and 4.
- How does the compass work? Go to Earth's Magnetic Field to find out. Read the explanation and look closely at the diagram of Earth's magnetism. Use the information to answer questions 5 and 6.
- It's easy to Create Your Own Compass with simple materials. Follow the onscreen instructions. Happy navigating!

### Workspace

1. Where does a magnetic compass always point?

2. Describe how a magnetic compass is built.

3. What did Chinese astronomers use to make their compass?

4. Describe some of the uses of the ancient compass.

5. What is Earth's *declination*?

6. Where does Earth's magnetism come from?

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