



Habitats and
Vegetation

Compass Treasure Hunt

Age: 7-14

Topic: Mapping and
Navigation

Time: 30 minutes



Learning
through
Landscapes

If you would like to develop your outdoor learning knowledge and skills, take a look at our range of training courses: ltl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training

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Overview

This practical activity which can include the use of technology helps develop pupils' understanding of the link between compass points and angles and builds their ability to describe, follow and record directions, routes and journeys using the appropriate vocabulary.

For a more advanced class, this activity could be developed into an orienteering course which can then be shared with other year groups, i.e. the 'treasure' would be a series of clues or letters and when they are all found they spell out a secret word or phrase.

What equipment will I need?

- Notepad and pencil
- Protractor, magnetic compass or compass app.
- A 'treasure' cache to hide such as a secret message in a bottle
- An area of trees, scrubland, beach or playground

How will learners explore this?

1. Agree on the boundaries with the children and identify any hazards.
2. Decide on a 'base' – probably the gathering space from which you began.
3. Divide the pupils into teams. Each team should agree on, then measure and record a zig-zag route from the starting 'base' to their hidden 'treasure'. The route should have five distinct legs (dependent upon the team's ability).
4. The route should include distances for each leg of the journey (pacing is best) and a bearing. Depending on your equipment the bearing will be recorded as a compass direction or degrees clockwise/anticlockwise.
5. Swap routes between teams and see if they can find the hidden 'treasure'.



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