

Marine Safety Update

Activity Idea for Safety Instructors: COMPASS & ROPE EXERCISE

Goal: Students use the compass as an orienting tool. Students start on an assigned, numbered position, follow the directions and compass headings for that position, and end at another, predicted position.

Objective: After completion of this activity, student should be able to use a compass, find and move in three directions, and come to a stop within five feet of a predicted position.

Meets Alaska education standards:

Mathematics: A-1, A-2, A-3, A-5, B-1, B-2, B-4, B-5, B-6, C-1, C-2, E-1, E-2, E-3

Geography: A-4, A-6, C-1

Science: A-4, A-5, A-7, B-1, B-2, D-1, D-2, D-3, D-6

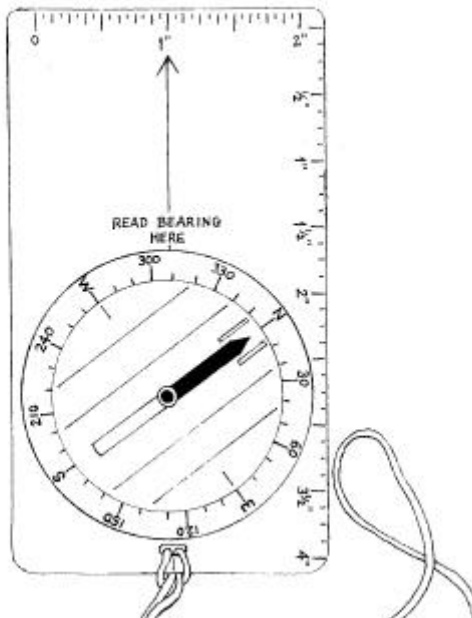
Equipment needed:

1. Orienteering compasses with movable rings, marked in degrees. One for each student.
2. 50-foot rope, extended full-length and laying flat on the ground. Numbers 1-10 marked every 5 feet along the rope as shown at right.
3. Open space, at least 50 feet by 120 feet.
4. Set of cards (see preceding page) with printed instructions for each numbered position.

Procedure:

1. Students must calibrate their stride. They should move three feet with each step taken.
2. Lay rope in a magnetic North and South direction. Assign each student a numbered starting position.
3. Show students how to "dial in" the desired magnetic bearing on their compasses and take note of their starting points at their assigned positions.
4. Students should turn their bodies while holding the compass horizontally in front of them to determine the proper direction called for in the instructions.
5. Students should then follow the directions on their card. Even numbers move west of line; odd numbers move east of line.
6. Final distances from predicted end points should be noted.

Thanks to teacher Michael Franklin, Larson Bay School, Kodiak, for the idea for this activity!



↑ Magnetic
North
10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1