

# Investigating Prevailing Winds

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## Teacher Notes

This lab should be done in groups of three students: one to hold the pencil, one to spin the plate, and one to use the marker.

## MATERIALS

- paper plate, 10-inch diameter
- pencil
- push pin
- marker

## SKILLS ACQUIRED

- Constructing Models
- Experimenting
- Identifying and Recognizing Patterns
- Interpreting

## PROCEDURE

1. Insert a push-pin through the center of a 10 in paper plate.
2. Push the pointed end of the pin into the eraser end of a pencil.
3. Spin the plate in a counterclockwise direction.
4. While the plate is spinning, try to draw a straight line from the center of the plate to the outer edge.

## ANALYSIS

1. Relate what you observed to the movement of winds and the rotation of Earth.

**Because Earth rotates on its axis from west to east, global winds follow the same direction.**

QuickLab

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