

# Map and Compass - 2hrs

Knowing how to use a map and compass is essential in wilderness areas, important when navigating our rivers, helpful when taking a trip in a car, and a lot of fun when out for an afternoon hike. This program is designed to give students the skills to use maps, compasses and the combination of the two.

---

## Before you go

Inform students that they will be visiting Carpenter Nature Center to learn how to use a map and compass to find bearings to get you to where you want to go. Learning how to read a map beforehand may be helpful, but is not necessary. Remind students that a great portion of time for this class will be spent outside so they should dress for the weather.

## Timeline

- 0:00-0:30 Introduction—Learn why it is important to learn how to use a map and compass and then dive right in to learning how to set bearings on a compass
- 0:30-1:00 Compass practice—Using the skills the students just learned, they will practice setting bearings on compasses to create shapes
- 1:00-1:30 Adding a map—Things get a little trickier when students learn how to use a map to create their own bearings
- 1:30-2:00 Map and compass practice—Students put their skills to the test by dividing up into small groups to use a map and compass to follow an orienteering course

## After You Leave

Have students set up orienteering courses using a map of the school, and then have them run through other groups' courses.

## Minnesota Standards

Carpenter Nature Center supplements standards by participating in benchmark activities. Listed below are benchmarks that students will participate in but not necessarily master.

### Fourth Grade:

Code	Benchmark
4.1.2.2.1	Identify and investigate a design solution and describe how it was used to solve an everyday problem

### Sixth Grade:

Code	Benchmark
6.1.2.1.2	Recognize that there is no perfect design and that new technologies have consequences that may increase some risks and decrease others

### Fifth Grade:

Code	Benchmark
5.1.3.4.1	Use appropriate tools and techniques in gather, analyzing, and interpreting data
5.1.3.4.2	Create and analyze different kinds of maps of the students community and of Minnesota



### Minnesota Campus

12805 St. Croix Trail

Hastings, MN 55033

Telephone: (651) 437-4359

[www.carpenternaturecenter.org](http://www.carpenternaturecenter.org)