



## Spatial Orientation | Determining Directions (Use Your Watch as a Compass)



### Objective

With only an analog watch this method gives students a good approximation of compass direction.

### Didactic-methodological legitimation

Going beyond acquiring basic and subject-specific knowledge, the ability to navigate and orient oneself spatially is a major geographical skill. Following this method, learners become able to determine directions in real space with the aid of simple equipment. This method is additionally suitable for all age groups, and is notable for its simplicity, though some conditions must be considered.

### Advice on location and performance

To use the solar guide, this method requires sunlight and is ideally performed in open areas, such as clearings. Students should also be informed that the imaginary line between 12 o'clock and the hour hand indicates South in the Northern Hemisphere, but North in the Southern Hemisphere. Moreover, during daylight saving (summer) time, clocks are put forward an hour, so this hour must be subtracted during this period.

### Literature (German):

<http://outdoorcamp.de/himmelsrichtung-ohne-kompass-bestimmen/>; letzter Zugriff: 09.05.14.

<http://www.outdoor-tipps.com/orientierung/mithilfe-der-sonne-die-himmelsrichtung-ermitteln/>; letzter Zugriff: 09.05.14.

DGfG (Hg.): Bildungsstandards im Fach Geographie für den Mittleren Schulabschluss, Bonn 2010.

Kultusministerium des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt (Hg.): Fachlehrplan Sekundarschule Geographie, Magdeburg 2012.

