Pinpoint Your Position

Target Grade Level(s): 3rd - 5th

Next time you go out on a hike, bring this activity along with you! Learn about how to find your bearings using a map and supplies you might have at home. Do you have a Global Positioning System (GPS) at home? Your GPS calculates the distance between signals it receives from satellites in space. How is this activity similar or different to how a GPS finds your location.

**Supplies**
- One (1) Map of your area
- One (1) Compass
- One (1) Protractor
- One (1) Ruler
- One (1) Pencil

**Challenge**

1. Look at an object that you can see on your map. A mountain or park works great!
2. Point your compass north and read off the angle that points toward your object.
3. This is the object bearing from where you are standing.
4. Now on the map, draw a line that runs through the object at the same angle to north as the bearing you took. The top of the map is usually north.
5. Repeat this for a different object like another mountain or lake.
6. Where the two lines cross on the map is your location!