

# handout

# Wind Spinner



Exploring your world,  
one mission at a time  
[pbskids.org/plumlanding](http://pbskids.org/plumlanding)

## What Is This Activity?

**How does wind flow through a city?** Make a Wind Spinner to observe wind speed and direction, and test how buildings and streets affect wind flow.

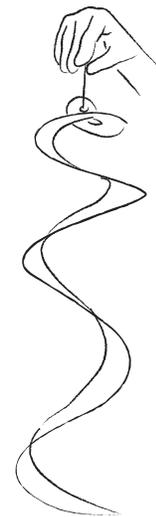
**Big Science Idea:** City structures change the direction and speed of wind.

## How to Make a Wind Spinner

1. Print out the Wind Spinner template, preferably on cardstock.
2. Cut out the spiral and punch out the hole in the center.
3. Tie a string through the hole.

## How to Use a Wind Spinner

1. Hold the string and let the Wind Spinner spin.
2. Look at it from above.
3. If it's spinning clockwise (to the right), the air is rising. If it's spinning the opposite way, the air is falling.
4. Use the Wind Spinner at different outdoor locations to see if the air is rising or falling.



### Activity Time

5 minutes to make a Wind Spinner, open-ended time to use it

### Materials

- Cardstock or heavy paper (use plain paper if others not available)
- String
- Scissors
- Optional: Crayons or markers to decorate Wind Spinners

## Explore Some More

### Windy Ways

- Tornadoes, hurricanes, and storm winds can cause major damage to homes and other buildings. Explore wind power with a bowling-type game.
- Set up a series of wooden pins or empty plastic bottles. Have kids roll a ball at the pins, gently at first, and then at greater and greater speeds.
- *What happens to the pins when the ball moves faster? How are wind speed and wind power related?* (The faster the wind, the more force it has.)

### Outdoor Family Fun with Plum APP

This app gets families outdoors exploring the world. Every day, the app offers five outdoor missions to get everyone thinking and talking about nature and the science that's all around us.

Find the app and more fun resources on [pbskids.org/plumlanding](http://pbskids.org/plumlanding).



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