

TRADITIONAL WEATHER FORECASTING: WIND DIRECTION GR: PREK-2 (LESSON 3)

Elder Quote/Belief:

“The weatherman, there was another one for that. He had a fine feather, a down feather. He tied the feather to the stick. In the morning he would go outside to check it. If a little wind stops for a while, there will be no wind that day. Even when there is no wind and the feather moves, there is going to be a storm today. If the feather moves, there is going to be a big storm today, sometimes later in the day. Sure enough it comes. They can tell by that feather they hold.”
-Sergius Moonin, Nanwalek, Alexandrovsk Vol. 2 Old Beliefs, page 41

Grade Level: PreK-2

Overview:

The Elders from across the Chugach Region have a wealth of knowledge in predicting the weather by observing which direction the wind is blowing from. The Elders traditional ecological knowledge is still passed down through generations and used today by local community members to predict the weather.

Standards:

<i>AK Cultural:</i>	<i>AK Content Science:</i>	<i>CRCC:</i>
D(4) Gather oral and written history information from the local community and provide an appropriate interpretation of its cultural meaning and significance	A (3) Develop an understanding that culture, local knowledge, history, and interaction with the environment contribute to the development of scientific knowledge, and local applications provide opportunity for understanding scientific concepts and global issues.	Survival S (7) Students should be able to learn/observe the weather and tides

Lesson Goal:

Students will learn how our ancestors used observation of the wind direction as an indicator to predict the weather.

Lesson Objective(s): Students will:

- Learn the Sugt’stun names for the wind direction
- Create an activity that will help them learn the Sugt’stun names for the wind direction
- Learn how to predict the weather from the activity they create and Elder TEK

Vocabulary Words:

Sugt’stun Dialects

English:	Prince William Sound:	Lower Cook Inlet:	Eyak:
Wind		Aqllaq	
Wind Blowing		Aqllalluni	
East		Ungalaq	
West		Ikakeq	

North		Kiakeq	
South		Waaqeq	

Materials/Resources Needed:

Colored pencil or markers

Compass

Folder for the teacher with the following items:

- a) Picture of a compass with the words in English and Sugt'stun for the wind directions
- b) List of the weather patterns that follow the wind direction it is blowing from.

Teacher Preparation:

- Locate the compass and display it so it is ready to pass it around to students.
- Locate the picture of the Sugt'stun compass for the wind directions.
- Make a copy of the Sugt'stun compass for each student.
- Read and practice the English and Sugt'stun names of the wind directions.
- Review the information sheet of the weather patterns that follow the wind direction.
- Review the Elder quotes on this lesson.

Opening: The Elders and local community members are able to predict the weather by observing the wind direction. Our Elders want to pass on this knowledge of weather predictors by first learning the directions of which way the wind is blowing. Listen carefully to the Elder quotes.

- *“When the wind shows up the rain will be right behind it.” Tom Anderson, Cordova.*
- *“East wind and northeast winds will bring overcast clouds. West and southwest winds bring nice sunny weather in the Port Graham area.” Elder consensus*
- *“You can tell when it is going to get windy by the change in temperature, if it's cold for a few day and then it gets warm, it's a sign it will get windy.” -Mary Malcoff, Port Graham*
- *“Fall and Spring time is usually the windiest of the seasons.” -Stella Meganack, Port Graham*

How many of you heard of different beliefs regarding wind from your family? Let us examine a compass and how to read it. We will also learn the Sugt'stun words for the names of the wind direction as it shows on the banner.

Activities:

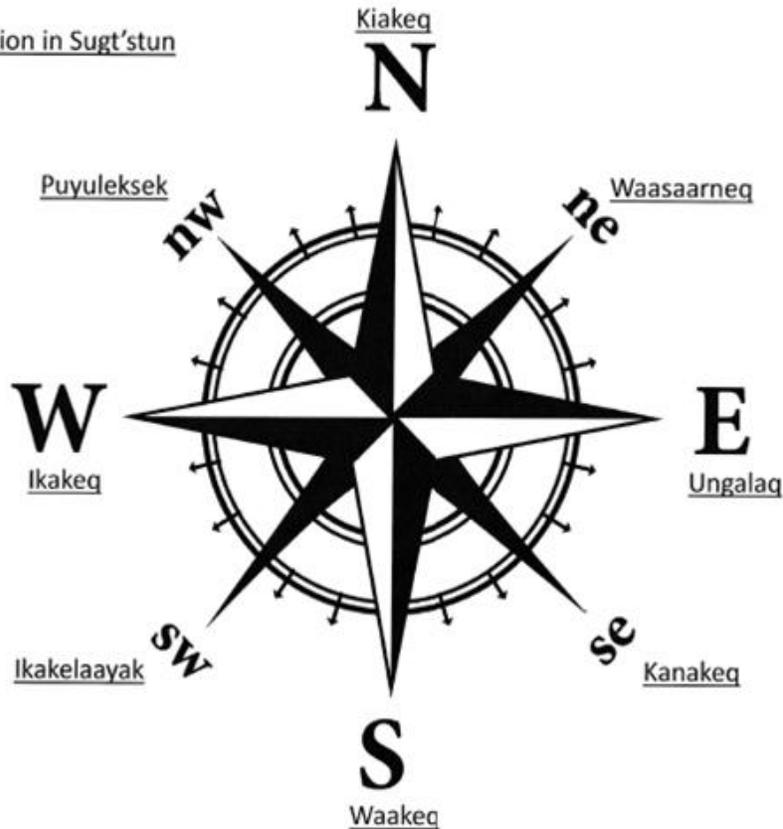
Class I:

1. Show the students the compass and explain how it works. Pass the compass around to the students as you explain north, south, east and west directions.
2. Have the students point to each direction as you say them.
3. Show the picture of the compass as it includes the English and Sugt'stun names for the wind directions.
4. Give a copy of the wind directions to each student.
5. Read the English and Sugt'stun names of the wind directions out loud and ask the students to repeat afterwards.
6. Read the information sheet of the weather patterns that follow the wind direction.
7. As the weather patterns are being read out loud, ask the students to repeat the English and Sugt'stun words for the wind direction and point in the direction being said.
8. Read the Elder quotes out loud and ask the students to color or write an Elder quote on their wind direction picture.

Assessment:

- Students can identify the geographic directions by using a compass.
- Students can pronounce the Sugt'stun and Eyak Vocabulary words.
- Students can explain how wind direction was traditionally used to predict the weather.

Wind Direction in Sugt'stun



Weather Following Wind Direction
according to our Elders

1. If the wind is blowing from the East, it is going to rain.
2. If the wind is blowing from the West, it is going to be clear and sunny.
3. If the wind is blowing from the North, it is going to be overcast, partly cloudy and cold.
4. If the wind is blowing from the South, it is going to be windy and clear.