

Make a windmill

by Jackie Holderness & Annie Hughes

Level 2 • Beginner–Elementary

Age: Primary (6–11)

Language aims: To discuss how a windmill works; to follow instructions

Time: 20–30 minutes

Student grouping: Individuals

Materials: One copy of the worksheet for every four students (plus one or two spare worksheets); multiple pairs of scissors; multiple glue sticks or sticky tape; coloured pens or pencils; one thin stick (short garden canes are ideal) and a pin/tack/nail per student; a small hammer; a ready-made windmill and one cut out but unmade

Language focus: *Blow, turn, cut, catches, round; windmill, wind, air; why does it turn?*

Procedure

Step 1

Show the children your ready-made windmill and blow it so that it turns. Ask 'Why does it turn?' The children should tell you that it is the wind or air that turns it. Help them discuss this in English.

Step 2

Now tell the children it is called a windmill. Describe the sequence of events, for example, 'I blow on the windmill, the windmill catches the air and this turns the windmill round.'

Step 3

Tell the children they are going to make a windmill. Hand out the worksheets, one windmill per student. Using your cut-out windmill, show the children what they have to do:

1. Cut the windmill around the solid outline, so you have a square.
2. Cut down each dotted line until you get to the black circle. (Make sure the children do not cut any further – all the triangles should remain attached by the central black circle. If they cut too far, give them a new windmill or help them stick it back together carefully using tape.)

Step 4

When they have cut out their windmills, let them colour them in lots of bright colours. They can do this on both sides of the paper.

Step 5

Using your cut-out windmill, show the children how to make theirs:

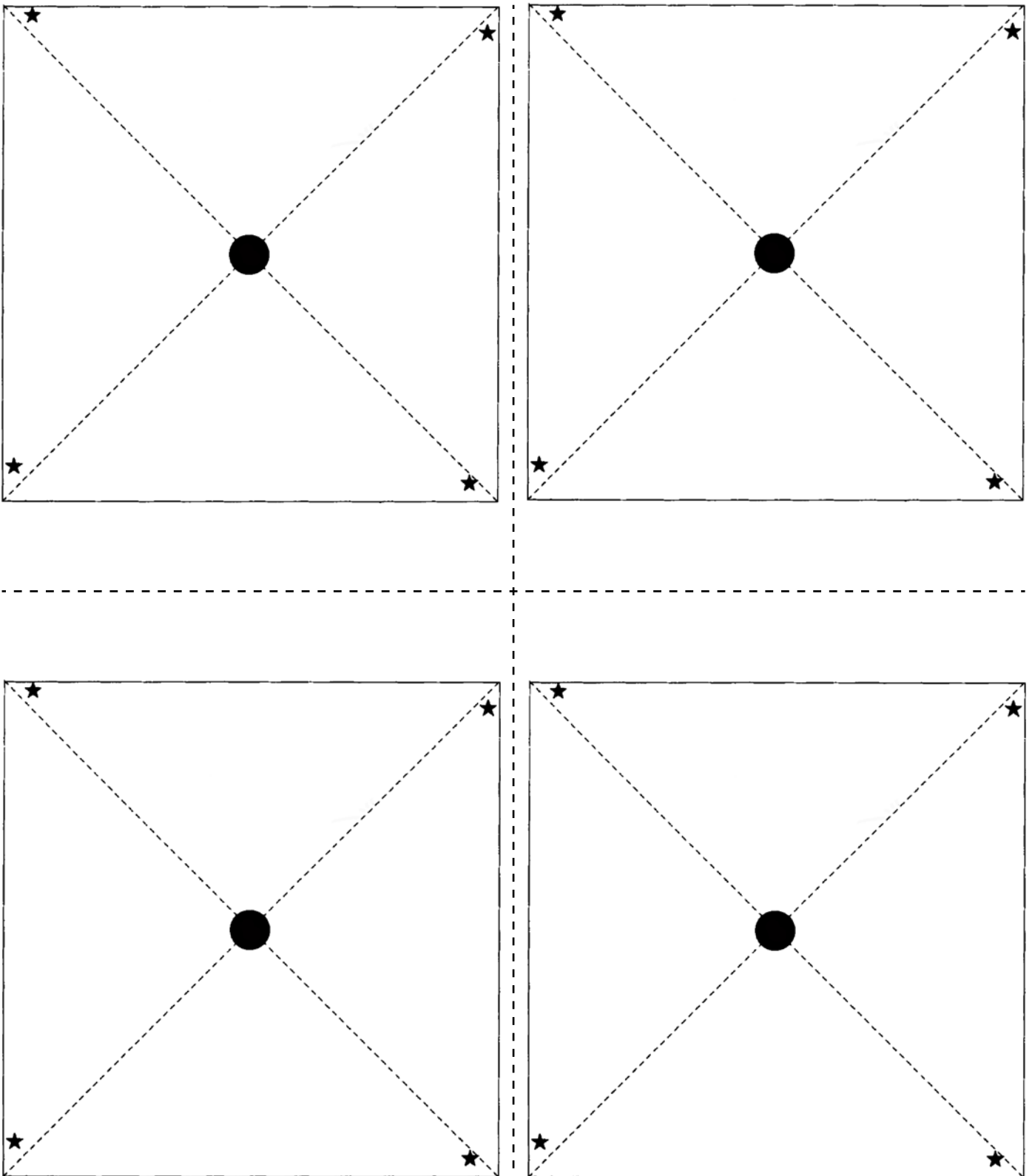
1. Turn down one of the stars to the middle circle and glue it in place. Do this with all the stars making sure that the 'sails' are not flat but rather rounded.
2. Now attach your windmill to the stick with the pin, tack or nail, **taking care not to hurt yourself**. Attach the children's windmills – they should not do this themselves.
3. Now blow on your windmill and it should turn.

Follow-up activity

Create a lovely display of windmills by putting a lot of sand into a small bucket or litter bin and then stand all the windmill sticks in the sand. If this is placed by an open window, the windmills will turn.

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WORKSHEET