

How Strong Is the Wind?

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Get curious

Video/ Slide show

You will see 2 films showing the enormous power of the wind.

Talk: What can wind do? What damage can it cause? Do you think it is possible to use wind power? How? How can we tell how fast the wind is blowing? How can we measure this power?

Get going

Constructing

Students make paper windmills - one of the simplest devices for measuring the strength of the wind.

Presenting results

The students test their windmills out to see how they work.

They can either place the windmills outside a window, provided there is a sufficiently strong wind, or they can use a hairdryer to make them turn. In order to measure wind strength you should – by observing the bright dot drawn on the rotor – count how many times the rotor turns in, for example, 10 seconds. The greater the number of rotations, the stronger the wind.

Constructing

Make a cup and plate anemometer in order to learn what more complicated devices for measuring wind strength look like and how they work.

Get practicing

Analyzing

Students measure the strength of the wind over the course of a week.

Using one of the wind meters they have constructed, the students measure the strength of the wind over the course of several selected days. They compare the results obtained on different days in order to see how the strength of the wind changes.
