One More Idea: The Earth Is a Magnet

REVEAL AT REVIEW | 15 MIN | NEEDLE · MAGNET · CORK · BOWL OF WATER

The point

You have held magnets, chained paper clips, seen the invisible field — but here is one more idea: **you are standing on a magnet.** The whole Earth is one, with a pole near the top and a pole near the bottom. Any magnet that can swing freely gets grabbed by it and turned to point **north**. That is all a compass is: a tiny magnet the Earth is holding.

Do it

1. **Magnetize a needle** (teacher's hands): stroke it with the magnet about **30 times, one direction only**, like petting a cat.
2. Lay the needle on a **slice of cork** (or a leaf) and float it in a still bowl of water.
3. Watch: it slowly **swings and settles**, pointing the same way every time.
4. Gently spin the cork. It comes back. Carry the bowl to another room — it *still* finds the same direction.
5. Ask: *"What is grabbing it? Nothing in the room… something much, much bigger."*

> *Say: "Every magnet we played with today was being pulled on the whole time — by the biggest magnet you will ever stand on."*



Fig. 1 — a floating needle becomes a compass: the Earth itself turns it

What to watch for

- The hush when the needle settles the **same way twice**
- A child checking it against the hallway, the yard, the car — encourage the tour

A PEEK AHEAD

If the Earth always tells a free magnet which way is north… then you can **find your way** with it. North, south, east, and west get their own lesson soon.