

Cardinal-Direction Builder

Classroom-ready printable pack · Grades K–8

Pack contents

Compass mats, landmarks, direction tokens, and challenges. Two student sets are included.

Teacher directions

1. Align both mats north-up.
2. The Describer places a center and landmarks.
3. State direction and distance for each landmark.
4. Compare from the common center.

Before class

- Print at 100% on US Letter paper. Use cardstock or laminate for reuse.
- Cut on the thick solid borders. Keep Set A and Set B separate.
- Give challenge/model cards only to the Describer.
- Use a folder, book, or tabletop barrier so partners cannot see each other's work.

Accessibility and accommodations

Start with N, E, S, W at one distance. Add intermediate directions later.

Storage-envelope labels

Cardinal-Direction Builder

Set A — Describer

Count pieces before storing.

Cardinal-Direction Builder

Set B — Builder

Count pieces before storing.

Cardinal-Direction Builder

Challenge / model cards

Count pieces before storing.

Cardinal-Direction Builder

Teacher reference

Count pieces before storing.

Student language supports

Position: above · below · beside · between · near · far · left · right · clockwise**Clarify:** “Please repeat...” · “Is ___ beside ___?” · “What should I place next?”**Compare:** same · different · rotate · move · replace · sequence

Movable pieces

Set A

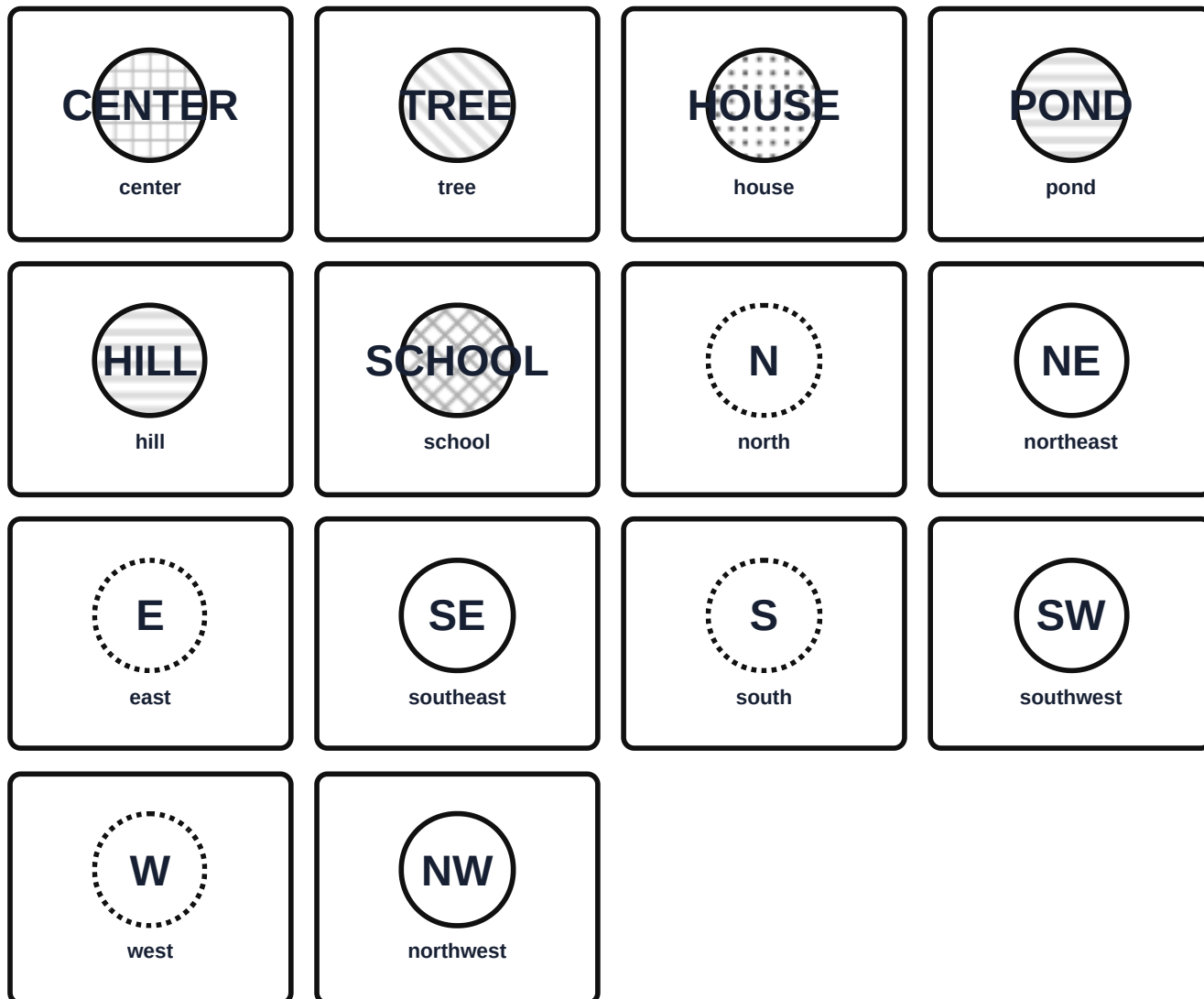
Cut on the solid borders. This set is identical to the partner set.



Movable pieces

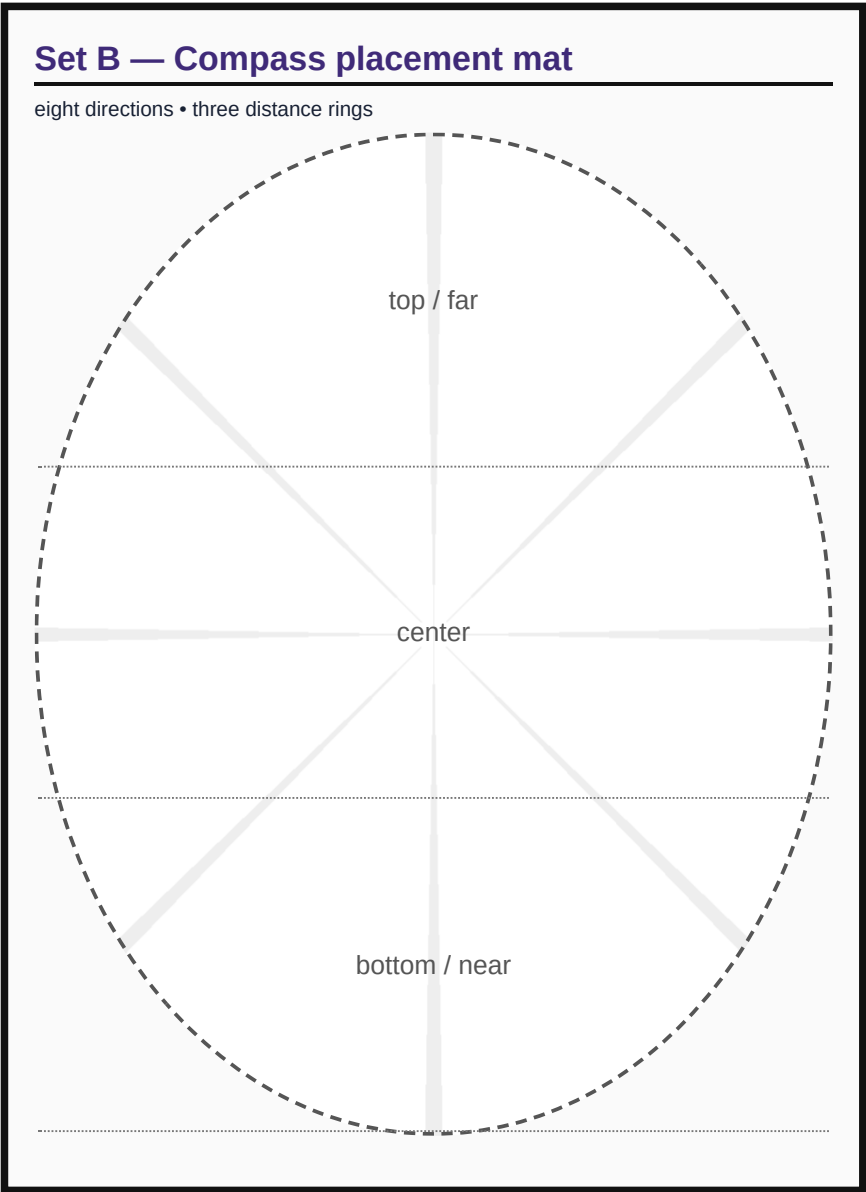
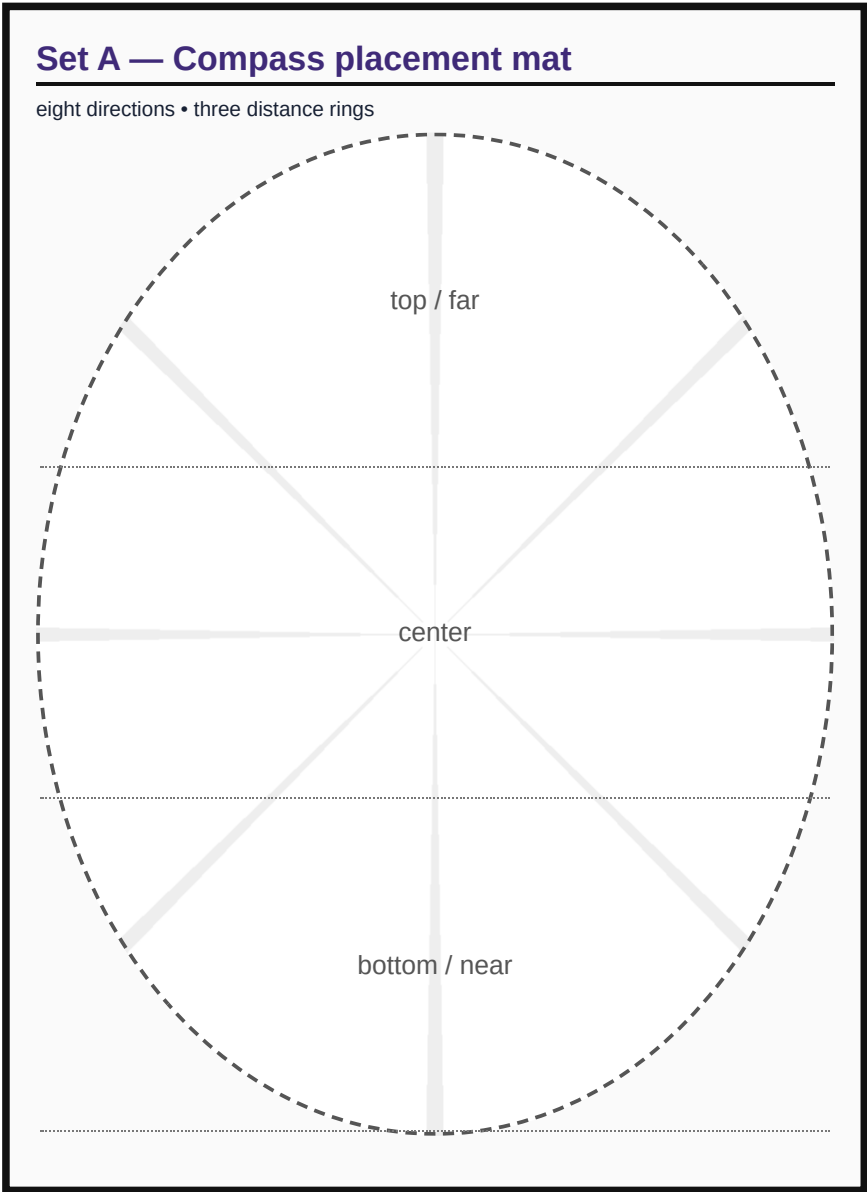
Set B

Cut on the solid borders. This set is identical to the partner set.



Compass placement mat

Cut the page in half. Both partner mats are identical.



Describer-only challenge cards

Keep these cards hidden from the Builder.

Challenge 1: Cardinals

One landmark N, E, S, and W.

Challenge 2: Intermediates

One at NE, SE, SW, and NW.

Challenge 3: Opposites

Make four opposite pairs.

Challenge 4: Mystery

Use six landmarks and two rings.

Cardinal-Direction Builder reference

Compass key

Clockwise: N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, NW. Opposites: N/S, E/W, NE/SW, NW/SE. Rings count outward from center.

Quality check after a round

- Can each student identify pieces by shape or label without relying on color?
- Do both models match in pieces, order, orientation, and relative position?
- Which direction was most precise? Which should be revised?