

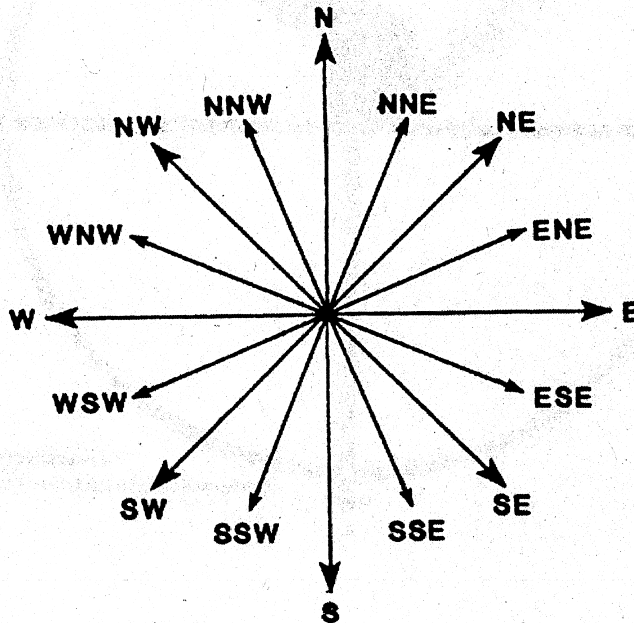
Direction

Geographers often use direction to describe the location of a feature. This involves the use of compass points, compass bearings and north points.

Compass Directions

The cardinal points of the compass are north, south, east and west. To give more specific direction, there are 12 intermediate compass points (shown in Figure 1).

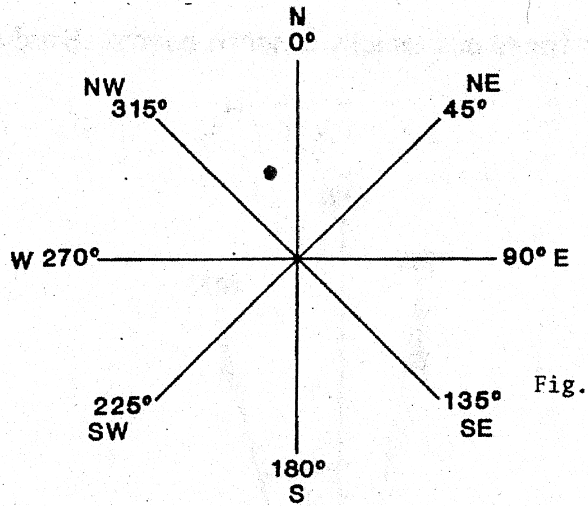
Figure 1



North is always taken to be zero degrees.

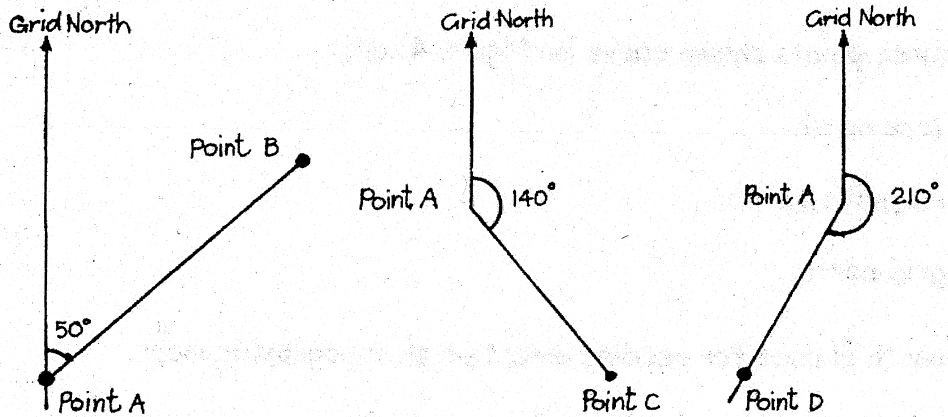
Study Figure 2 below.

Figure 2



Study each example in Figure 3.

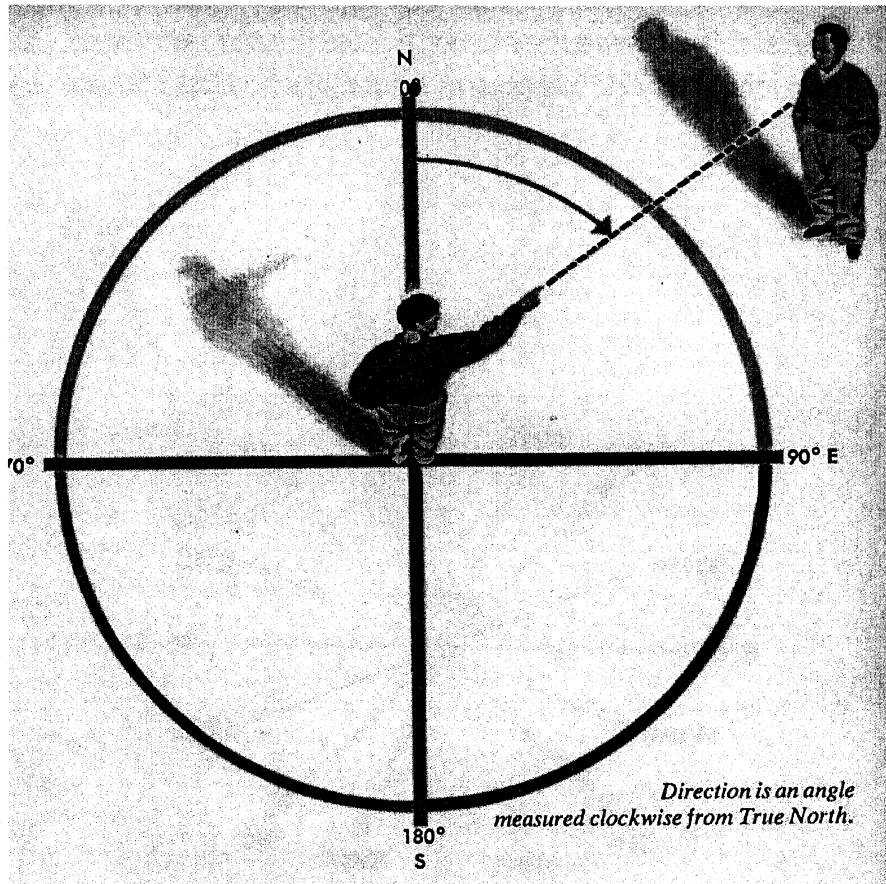
Figure 3



Compass Bearings

A bearing is an angle that is measured in a clockwise direction from zero.

Therefore, bearings can be used to work out the precise direction from one point to another. A protractor or compass is used to measure a bearing (in degrees).



When describing direction, you can think of yourself as standing in the centre of a huge circle which has been divided into 360 equal parts (degrees). You place the zero degree mark (0°) so that it is pointed at the true north pole. Then 90° points east, 180° points south, and 270° points west.

A line connecting any other place with your present position will cross the circle at some point where the direction can be given in degrees.