



BRING THE WEATHER INDOORS

New England farmers have always used weather-vanes to help them predict the weather. Today, many barns still proudly stand beneath a handsome weather-vane shaped like a cow, horse, sheep, or eagle. When the weathervane swings into the wind, it tells the farmer to expect change—maybe rain is coming, or the stormy northeaster is about to end and the sun come out.

Made of tin, copper, iron, or wood, many weather-vanes were the work of folk artists. They learned this traditional craft from relatives or neighbors.

Some fine old weathervanes are now in museums, where they can be cared for and enjoyed for years to come. Take a look at the barns in your town or check the steeples of churches and fire stations. Maybe you can find some wonderful weathervanes yourself. Draw an outline of your favorite, or use the drawing on this page to make your own indoor weathervane.

YOU WILL NEED:

Carbon paper and pencil
Scissors and utility knife
Lightweight cardboard
such as posterboard

A thin stick or dowel
A small bowl or jar
filled with marbles
or gravel

HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

1. Using carbon paper and a pencil, trace the shape above or one you have found onto a piece of lightweight cardboard or posterboard. Carefully cut out the shape you have traced, then paint or decorate your weathervane in any way you wish.
2. Carefully cut through the cardboard where the four slits appear at the center of the figure, then slip the thin dowel in and out through the slits.
3. Keep the weathervane at the top of the dowel. Then push the other end of the dowel into the marble-filled dish. The dowel can stand alone and you have a table-top weathervane to enjoy indoors.