

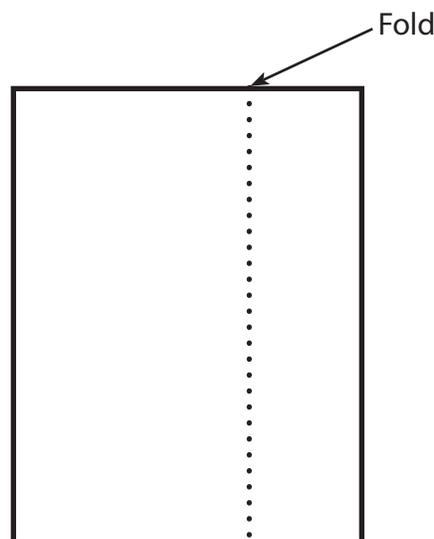
History of Geometry

Activity 2 - Viking Navigation

The Norse people were some of the first Europeans to visit North America. They had to navigate across the large Atlantic Ocean without compasses, satellites or even astrolabes (the instrument Jacques Cartier used when he came to North America 600 years later). They used the stars to navigate their way across the ocean! They would locate the North Star and use the angle between themselves and the star's light to determine their location.

On a clear night, try doing some ancient navigation yourself!

- Materials needed: a protractor, a cereal box, scissors, a pencil
- Take the cereal box and, with the scissors, cut it so that you have a piece that looks like the picture below

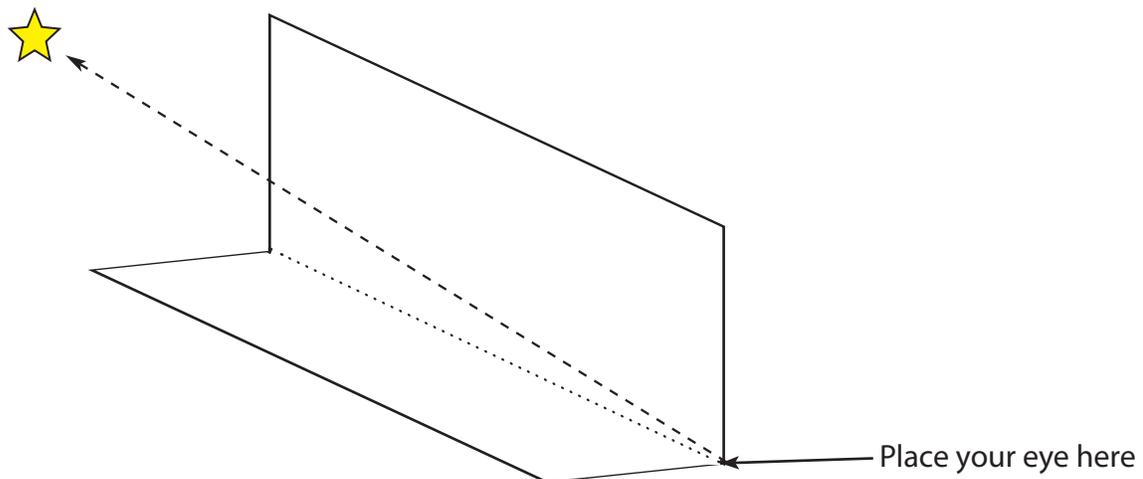


Can you believe THIS is math?

History of Geometry

Activity 2 - Viking Navigation - *continued*

- On a clear night, go outside and locate the North Star
- Put the box piece on a flat surface. The thin flap part should be on a flat surface with the larger flap pointing straight up at a 90° angle. You should be able to put your eye right at the base of the fold.



- Put your eye at the bottom of the fold and look towards the North Star. With the pencil, mark a line on the far side of the box piece.
- Draw a line from the base where your eye was to your pencil mark. Measure the angle of that line. It is the same as the latitude where you are!

Can you believe THIS is math?