

# Windmills

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**Windmills** (like a giant pinwheel) have been used to generate power since ancient times.

**Windmills** were used to grind wheat into flour and corn into cornmeal.

**Windmills** were used for: sawing wood, making oil, paper, spices, chalk and pottery.

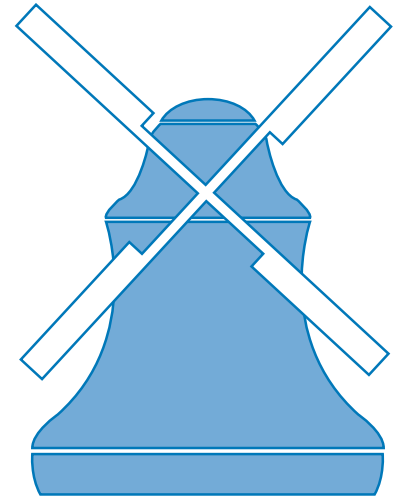
Today, giant **windmills** sit atop windy hillsides in great numbers like an army of pinwheels and are used to generate electricity.

**Windmills** are still used in areas that are far from a city, where the people have to generate their own power.

**Windmills** were used by the romans - their **windmills** had sails.

**Windmills** with sails spread all over Europe and eventually to America.

The force of the wind can make electricity. Giant **windmills** - with blades that reach out 200 feet, need a lot of wind to make them turn.

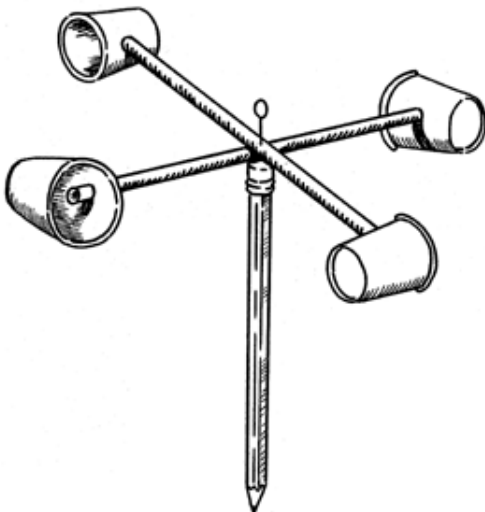


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How do you know if you have enough wind to turn a windmill?

You need an **ANEMOMETER**,

which works like the speedometer in a car (it measures wind speed).



**You** can make your own **ANEMOMETER** with four small paper cups, two straws, a dowel or a pencil and a nice long pin. Be sure your vertical support is long enough.

When you poke your pin through the two straws, be sure to “roll” you pin around a little to enlarge the hole, this helps your anemometer to spin freely. Now, blow as hard as you can into one of the four paper cups and watch your anemometer spin. If you have a good windy day, you can stand outside and let the wind do the work.