

Classroom Activity — Sector Navigation Slides

Sector Navigation Lights are a single light which shows red, white and green when viewed from different directions. The colour of the light provides information to mariners about direction.

Make your own sector navigation light

You will need:

- A slide projector
- A green vivid marker
- A red vivid marker
- A blank slide

Procedure:

Mark thirds on the clear acetate of the slide.

1. Colour the 1st third red with the red marker,
2. Colour the 3rd third green with the green marker,
3. Leave the centre third clear.
4. Turn the slide projector on and place the slide into it.
5. Walk about 10 steps away from the projector. You don't want to be too close to it as you will be looking at the light coming from the projector and you don't want to hurt your eyes.
6. Observe the colour of the light when you are standing directly in front of the light.
7. Take 3 large steps sideways. What colour do you see now?
8. What colour do you see from the other side?
9. Why do sector lights use red and green?
10. What can you find out about other navigation systems?

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Teachers Notes:

Red and green are known internationally as left and right in both navigation and aviation.

Further projects could include:

- How does a slide projector work?
- Lighthouses
- Navigating — lighthouses, compasses, Global Positioning Systems, Radars, orienteering
- Lenses