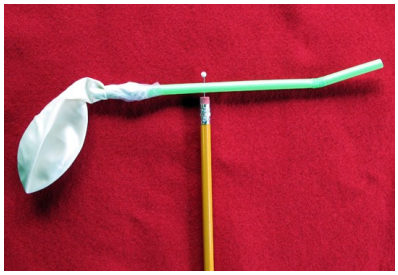
Learn by Doing

Choice East Wind Pinwheel



The Red Sea was parted by means of a strong east wind. Spiritually the wind pictures true ideas that have the power to cut through a sea of false thinking. Moses called the wind a "blast" from the Lord's "nostrils" (Exodus 15:8). The Lord's breath infuses heaven with life. This activity explores the effect of the Lord's heavenly wind on people in heaven and hell. Finish by making a balloon-powered pinwheel.

1. What do people do in the first seconds of their lives, and stop doing in the last seconds? (breathe) In the story of Creation, the Word says, "The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and *breathed into his nostrils the breath of life*; and man became a living being" (Genesis 2:27). Without the Lord's life flowing into us, we would have no life at all.
2. Take a deep breath and hold it for a count of 10. Now hold a hand up in front of your mouth and feel the wind as you let the air out slowly—pacing your breath so that it lasts for a count of 10. (Count as students hold their breath and exhale.)
3. Repeat the activity, but this time let the air out fast, in a count of 3. In what ways did the wind feel the same? In what ways different?
4. The east wind that blew all night and separated the waters of the Red Sea pictures the effect the Lord's Divine power can have. Angels experience the Lord's power as gentle and loving—like the first breath you let out. But hellish spirits experience His love as "rough and fierce"—because it opposes their selfish desires (see *Arcana Coelestia* 7679). This is like the second breath you let out.
5. Hand out *An Experience in the Spiritual World* (p. 8). Read and discuss.
   - How did the gangs experience the troop that came to disperse them? As a "gentle" wind or as a "rough and fierce" wind? (Rough—because they loved doing terrible things to others.)
   - Which kinds of people experience the Lord as 'gentle' and loving? (People who are in heaven.)
   - Does the Lord love people in heaven and people in hell differently? Does He love angels more? Does He want to punish the evil spirits? (He loves them the same, but they experience His love differently.)
6. Create balloon-powered pinwheels to demonstrate the power of breathe and wind. See *East Wind Pinwheel Directions* (p. 3).

Materials Needed

for Each Student

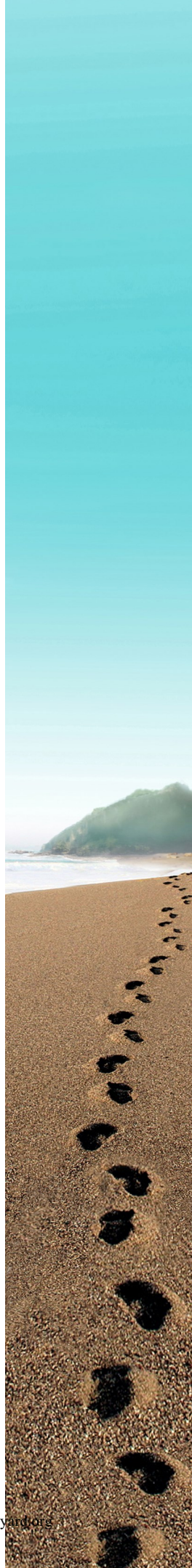
a copy of *An Experience in the Spiritual World* p. 2, a copy of *East Wind Pinwheel Directions* p. 3, straw with a bendable end, balloon, new pencil with eraser, straight pin, tape

Prepare in Advance

Purchase supplies you need. Make a sample pinwheel.

New Church Concept
East Wind

Separations of the good from the evil in the spiritual world are effected by various degrees of modification and of intensity of the Divine which proceeds from the Lord as the Sun. When this flows in gently, then the good are separated from the evil; and when powerfully, the evil are rejected…. The casting down of evil is described in the Word by strong winds. The wind of Jehovah means the same thing as the spirit of Jehovah, for the wind of respiration is meant, which is also called breath. *Apocalypse Explained* 419



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An Experience in the Spiritual World

The following story is an account of an experience Emanuel Swedenborg had while he was conscious in the spiritual world. Swedenborg kept a log of his experiences. His log book was published after his death as the *Spiritual Diary* or *Spiritual Experiences.*

About the East Wind

Some [evil] spirits who were near me joined themselves into vicious groups that got out of control. One group started to gang up on someone and push him around disrespectfully, trying to harm him. Heavenly spirits and angels nearby could see that the spirits had organized themselves to destroy many people.

After the spirits had ganged up, a large troop of [good] spirits was heard approaching. They made a lot of noise as they came. The noise sounded as if it was coming in waves. When they arrived the gangs were thrown into chaos—some went one way, and some another way. As the gangs broke up the [evil] spirits became distressed. Some were crying. They were afraid that they were all going to perish together and thought that the last judgment had come.

I was not afraid because I had seen things like this before. The sounds of the troop of spirits came to me in waves that came one after another, but another spirit heard it like the sound of horses. Each person heard it differently depending on the degree to which they were frightened.

As this unfolded in front of me I was told that the large troop had been sent to disperse the spirits who had ganged up and made plans to hurt others. The purpose of this troop is to break gangs apart, striking them with fear that they will all perish. As they are split up, all that the spirits in the gangs can think about is getting away, or being afraid that they will be destroyed.

The troop of good spirits told Swedenborg that the gangs of bad spirits were dispersed in a way that is similar to a wind dispersing things. After this, the Lord can bring everything back into its order.

This process is pictured by the east wind that dried up the Red Sea and enabled the children of Israel to cross over on dry land. If gangs of evil spirits are not dispersed, they will attack good people who have just arrived from the world and prevent them from communicating with good spirits and angels. When the gangs are broken up, communication with heaven is restored.

See *Spiritual Experiences* 2121-2177

- How did the gangs of spirits experience the troop that came to disperse them? As a ‘gentle’ wind or as a ‘rough and fierce’ wind?
- Which kinds of people experience the Lord as ‘gentle’ and loving?
- Does the Lord love people in heaven and people in hell differently? Does He love angels more? Does He want to punish the evil spirits?

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East Wind Pinwheel Directions



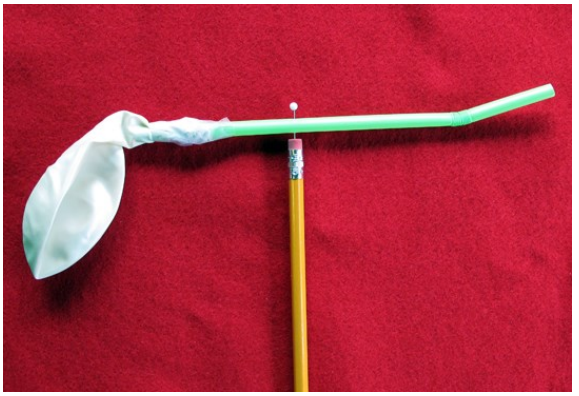
1. You will need a pencil with an eraser, a straw with one end that bends, a balloon, a straight pin, and tape.



2. Tape the balloon to the end of the straw.



3. Use plenty of tape to seal the balloon to the straw with no air leaks. Take care not to crush the straw.



4. Put the pin through the middle of the straw and into the eraser on the pencil.



Bend the end of the straw so that it is parallel to the ground and not up in the air or down toward the ground.

6. Blow into the straw and inflate the balloon. If you are having difficulty inflating it, stretch the balloon and try again.
7. Blow the balloon up until it is large, then hold on to the pencil and let go of the straw. Air coming out of the balloon should drive the straw around on the pencil.
8. If yours is not working well, check to be sure that
   - the straw is not pinned too tightly
   - the straw is not pinned too close to where the balloon is attached
   - the bent end of the straw is parallel to the ground.

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