

Making a Ping-Pong Anemometer

- 1) On a piece of paper, draw a “pizza slice” wedge shape with approximately 6-in. straight edges.
- 2) Create a scale on the rounded side (I use 0–9) by placing numbers at regular intervals. (I find that for younger students, an inch between numbers is ideal; for older students, a more precise scale might be preferred).
- 3) Copy this template onto cardstock paper. If you are unable to copy onto cardstock, simply copy the template onto paper and then have students glue the paper onto pre-cut cardstock wedges.
- 4) Have students attach the wedges to rulers using tape, taking care to match the corner of the wedge with the edge of the ruler (and with the top number on the scale in the middle of the ruler). See photo below.
- 5) Have students tape the string to the edge of the ruler so that it hangs straight down to the “0” mark.
- 6) Have students tape the bottom of the string to the ping-pong ball.
- 7) To use the anemometer, hold the ruler with the wedge and ball facing away from you. Turn into the wind and watch the ball fly up! The wind strength can be read by simply noting where the string crosses on the scale.

