



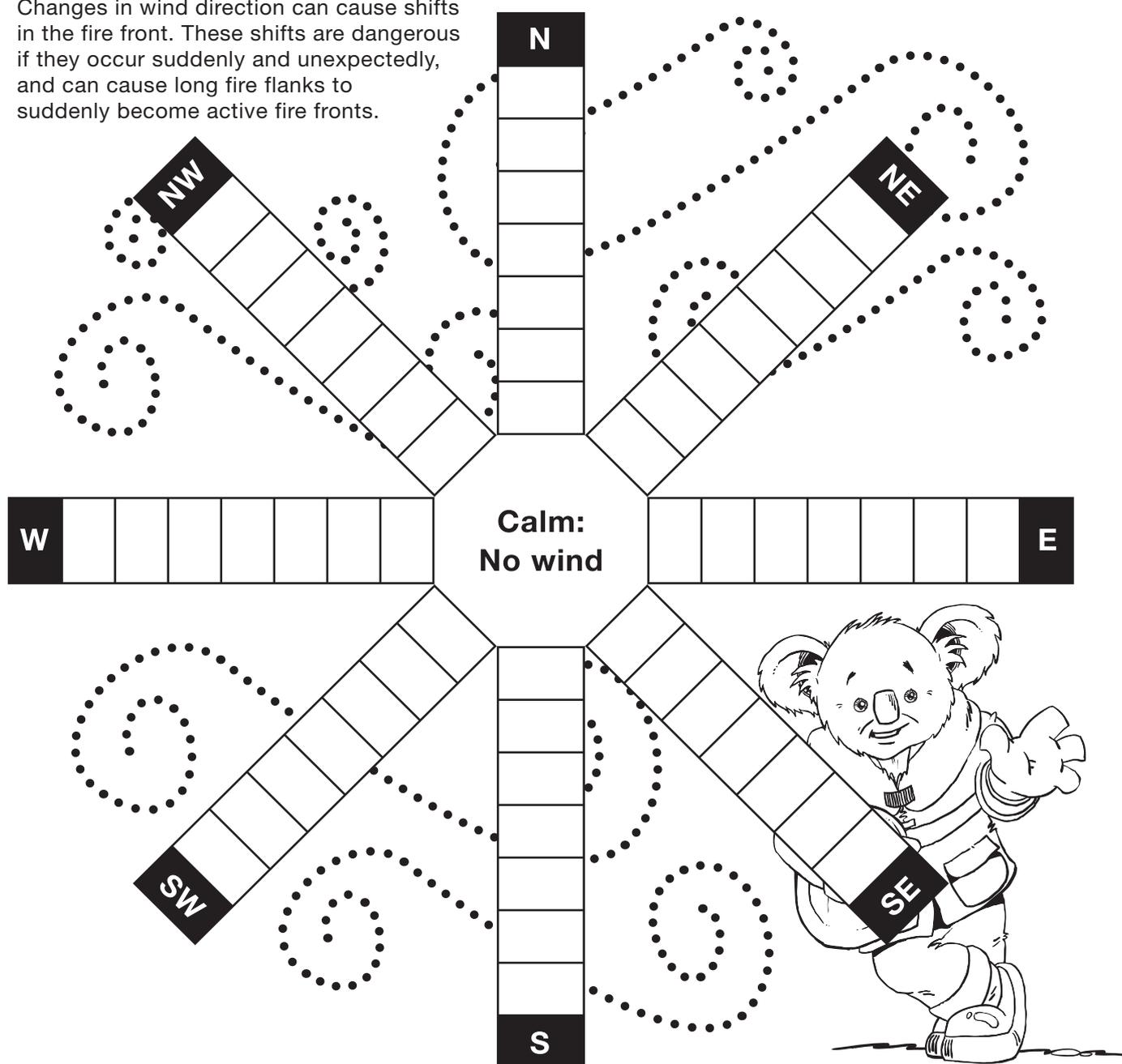
MAPPING THE WIND

Worksheet 39

Use the wind map below to chart the wind's direction over the next four weeks (or until one arm of the map is full). Each afternoon check the direction of the wind and colour in a square on the corresponding arm of the map. For example, if the wind is blowing from the **North**, colour in a square on the arm labelled 'N'. If there is no wind, don't colour in a square. Note: The best time to measure the wind is in the afternoon.

Wind direction refers to the direction the wind is coming from i.e. a "North wind" means a wind originating from the North and travelling in a Southerly direction.

Changes in wind direction can cause shifts in the fire front. These shifts are dangerous if they occur suddenly and unexpectedly, and can cause long fire flanks to suddenly become active fire fronts.





MAPPING THE WIND

Worksheet 39: Questions

Did you know?

During the summer months, in Victoria, wind from the North is often warm. This is because it comes from inland Australia where the climate is hot and dry. Wind from the South is mostly cool over the summer months because it comes from the ocean. Changes in wind temperature are often less dramatic for those that live away from the coast. This is because as the cool South wind travels from the ocean across land it warms up and so is not as cool by the time it reaches inland towns like those along the Murray River.

After four weeks (or when one arm is fully coloured in) answer the following questions.

In your region does the wind come from one direction more often than others?

If yes, which direction?

What can you say about the temperature of the wind in your region?

Wind can have a big impact on the size and duration of a fire – what do you think a strong North wind would do to a fire?

How accurate is your wind map?

Compare your wind map to those created by the Bureau of Meteorology:
www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/wind/selection_map.shtml

More wind information: <http://wind.willyweather.com.au/vic.html>