Reflecting Telescope - How to mark a circle in thirds

Marking a circle in thirds is a useful thing to know how to do, especially when making scientific instruments, like a reflecting telescope. Use these quick and easy steps to learn how to do it.

You will need: a circle; a compass; and a pencil.



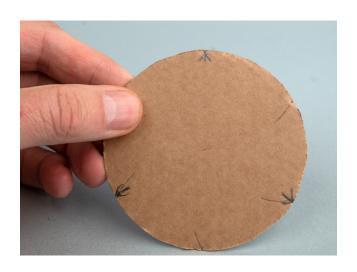
 With the point in the middle of the circle, move the pencil end of the compass so that it lines up with the edge of the circle. Mark the circle in this place.



2. Without changing the width of the compass, place the point on the mark you just made. Swing the pencil end of the compass clockwise and make a mark where the pencil naturally meets the edge of the circe.



3. Repeat step 2 around the circle until you get back to the first mark you made. You should have 6 marks in total, equally spaced.



4. With a regular pencil, draw small arrows over marks 1, 3 and 5 as shown. These are the thirds and show how the circle divides evenly in three.