






中	南	北	东	西
zhōng	nán	běi	dōng	xī
 Right in the “middle” or “center” of the circular area.	 The 十 radical on top of 南 indicates sprout of a plant. Even the plants know it: they tend to grow towards 南方 (the south).	 The left half is the Person (人) radical 人, and the right half is a mirror image of the humble human form. So the character 北 actually shows 2 persons standing back to back.	 Ancient form of 東 (the traditional form of 东) is 東, which consists of 日 and 木. These two parts are 日 and 木! You can easily see why it indicates the East by analyzing how the Sun (日) radical is relative to the tree (木) radical: The Sun is just about to rise over the tree, and hence the East! To see why 東 is simplified as 东, look at this sequence: the more and more cursive form leads to 东.	 Ancient form of 西 (a semantic variant of 西 or west) is 西, which shows a bird (鳥) rests on its nest. Birds go back to their nest at dusk. At that time the Sun is in the West.
	Because China locates on the northern hemisphere, so the Sun always shines from 南方 (the south), which is the preferred direction.	Houses tend to face the south to let the sunshine come in. Therefore, 北 or the north is considered to be at the back.	東 ◊ 東 ◊ 東 ◊ 东	
Central, middle.	South	North	East	West
The Xiǎozhuàn (or small seal) script form is used when appropriate to provide a lens to look into how the meaning of a character is rendered in its original form. This form is standardized by Lǐ Sī, a prime minister of the first Emperor of Qín soon after he united the whole of China in 221 BC.				
For 中, its 金文 or bronze script form is used. This type of scripts were found cast on bronze vessels dated back to the 周 and Shāng dynasties, which preceded the Qín.	The 金文 or bronze script form for 東 (the traditional form of 东) is 東, in which the 日 radical takes a better circular form.			