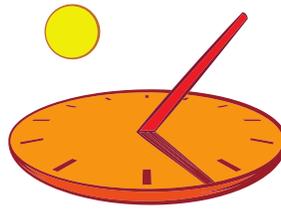


Make a Sundial!



Education Center
Explore. Imagine. Design. Play.

What is a sun dial? It is the earliest type of timekeeping device! It indicates the time of day by the position of the shadow of an object when it is exposed to the rays of the sun. As the day progresses, the sun moves across the sky, causing the shadow of the object to move. The movement of the sun and shadow is due to Earth's rotation on its axis. As Earth spins, the sun looks like it's moving across the sky, but we're actually the ones moving!

Materials:



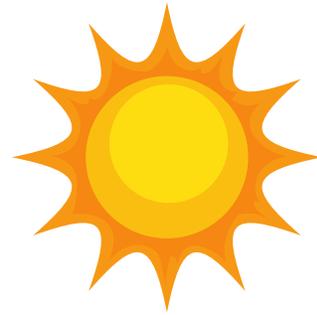
Paper Plate



Pencil



Marker



Sunny Day

Instructions:

- 1** Start your experiment at noon on a sunny day, if you can. Using your pencil, mark the center of your plate, and then poke your pencil through it.
- 2** Place your plate and pencil sundial on the ground outside where it is sunny. Mark the shadow you see at noon as "12". At different times of day, mark the time where the shadow is. (ex: 6am, 9am, 12pm, 3pm, 6pm)
- 3** Once you are done, you have now made a sundial! Try it out on your next sunny day!

Did You Know?

We have a real sundial that was designed and built in 1918 on the West Portico of Coe Hall that tells the time using the sun. See if you can find it on your next visit!

