

MEASURING TIME

Sundial Craft

Before clocks and watches, people told time by using a sundial. Follow the instructions to make one of your own! Can you read time using the sun?



MATERIALS:

Crayons
Paper plate
Sharpened pencil
Push pins
Ruler
Plastic straw

- 1** Start this project on a sunny day just before noon. Use the pencil to poke a hole through the very center of the paper plate. Write the number 12 on the edge of the plate with a crayon. Using the ruler as a guide, draw a straight line from the number 12 to the hole in the center of the plate.
- 2** At noon, take the plate and the straw outside. Put the plate on the ground and poke the straw through the hole. Slant the straw toward the line you drew. Now carefully turn the plate so that the shadow of the straw falls along the line to the number 12.
- 3** Fasten the plate to the ground with some pushpins. Predict where you think that the shadow of the straw will be pointing in one hour.
- 4** One hour later, at one o'clock, check the position of the shadow along the edge of the plate and write the number 1 on that spot. Continue each hour predicting the position and then checking and marking the actual position and time on the edge of the plate.
- 5** At the end of the day you will have a sun clock. On the next sunny afternoon, you will be able to tell time by watching where the shadow of the straw falls on your clock.



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