



The Human Sundial

Introduction

How can people tell time without the use of a watch? How did people know what time it was before the invention of clocks? They used the sun.

Sundials can be accurate devices for telling time. Constructing a sundial is also a fun and exciting way for students to be introduced to the concept of time. Students will learn that the Earth rotates around its axis, resulting in the cycles of day and night. They will also learn that the sun rises in the east, sets in the west and is at its highest point in the sky at noon. This activity will address concepts from math and physics, such as different forms of energy, forces and motion. They will be able to visualize the apparent movement of the sun across the sky, which results in shadows of different lengths on the ground at various times throughout the day. This activity is extremely simple, as only a hula hoop, chalk, a student and a sunny open area are required.