





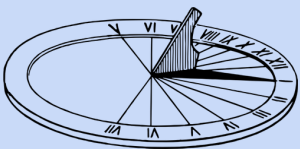
DIY Sundial

3rd - 5th
Grade

Materials

-  Paper plate
-  Pencil
-  Marker
-  Tape

Click the image to
learn more about
shadows and
sundials!



Students will learn about Earth's rotation and the effect this rotation has on shadows.

Directions

1. Use the pointed end of the pencil to poke a hole in the center of the paper plate.
2. Push the pencil through the hole until it fits snugly. Secure the pencil with a piece of tape.
3. Place your sundial outside in an area with direct sunlight throughout the day. Keep it in this spot the entire day.
4. In the morning, begin drawing a line where the pencil's shadow is at the start of each hour and write what time it is.
5. Continue marking the shadow throughout the day until the sun sets.

Additional Questions

1. At any time did the pencil not cast a shadow? If so, what time did this happen?
2. Take your sundial outside the next day. Is the time still accurate? (Place your sundial in the same spot)

