

Make a Beach Sundial

What you will need

A good stick for your Gnomon

12 pebbles or shells for your 'clock'

How to make your sundial

- 1 Make a flat space and draw a circle in the sand
- 2 Choose a good stick for your Gnomon
- 3 Choose 12 pebbles or shells and place them around the Gnomon in the shape of a clock
- 4 At 12 noon look where the shadow falls and write a number 12 in the sand or on your pebble
- 5 Each hour the shadow will tell you the time

How does a sundial work?
As the Earth moves on its axis the sun moves across the sky causing the gnomon to cast a shadow

The sun is highest in the sky at midday and casts short shadows. Longer shadows are cast when sun is lower in the sky.

The first recorded sundial was made in ancient Egypt in 1500 BC

The largest sundial in the world was constructed in 1724 in Jaipur, India. It covers almost one acre in size.

People first learned about time by watching the sun rise and set and developed a way to tell time on the basis of sunrise and sunset.