

# Human sundial

For thousands of years people have used the position of the Sun to tell the time and divide the day. Using this worksheet you can find out what happens to your shadow at different times of the day and explore how a simple sundial works.

Working with a partner, find a space in a sunny part of the playground. Mark the spot where you are standing and ask your partner to draw around your shadow with chalk.

Write the time next to the shadow and use the metre rule to measure your shadow's length, then use the compass to make a note of your shadow's direction.

Record the direction and the length of your shadow on the chart.

Repeat the steps above every hour.

## Things you'll need:

- A clear sunny day
- A playground or sunny outside space to work in
- A stick of chalk
- A compass (to find north)
- A metre rule
- The table below to record your findings



# Human sundial

Time of day	Shadow length	Shadow direction
10.00		
11.00		
12.00 (noon)		
13.00		
14.00		
15.00		
16.00		

What did you notice about your shadow?

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When was your shadow the longest?

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When was your shadow the shortest?

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Why do you think this happens?

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