Make a shadow clock

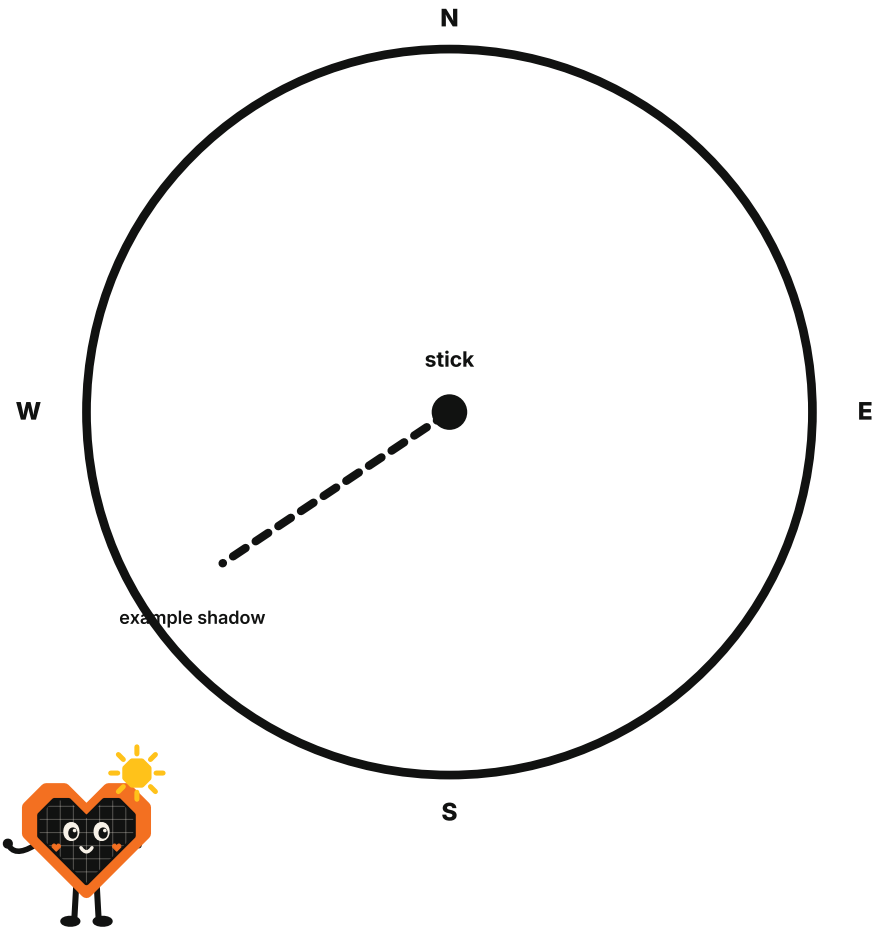
A stick and the sun can tell the time, in a gentle, old way. This works on a sunny day, outdoors. An adult should help with the stick.

You will need

A stick or a pencil, this page (or a patch of open ground), a sunny day, and a few visits through the day.

How to do it

1. Stand the stick up straight in the middle of the circle below. A little clay or tape will hold a pencil.
2. In the morning, draw along the shadow and write the time beside it.
3. Come back later. The shadow will have moved. Draw it again, and write the new time.
4. Do this a few times. You are making a simple sundial. The shadow is short at midday, and longer in the morning and evening.
5. Why? The Earth is turning, so the sun seems to move across the sky, and the shadow moves with it.



Remember

Never look straight at the sun.

The exact direction of north depends on where you live. A compass app, or an adult, can help, but you do not need it to start.

This is not a perfect clock. It is a way to watch the day go by.