Make a Sundial

Here’s a fun way to make a sundial. This activity is best created on a sunny day.

You will need:
1 Paper plate
Scissors
Glue
A pencil
Plasticine

Instructions
1. Cut out the pictures on page 3 or create your own design on page 4.
2. Next turn your paper plate upside down, and glue the large sun picture to the centre of the plate.
3. Put a lump of plasticine on the other side of the plate in the centre, big enough to hold your pencil in place.
4. Turn your plate back over to the side with your sun picture on. Use a sharp pencil to poke a hole through the centre of the plate where the orange dot is.

Please remember to recycle this activity
Choose a time you are going to go outside with your sundial. Make it a sunny day, and go out on the hour. We have chosen 12 o’clock for the example on this activity. Glue the hour number onto your plate.

Take your sundial outside and place in the sun. A shadow from the pencil will appear. Turn the plate around until the shadow lines up with the number 12 for 12 o’clock.

Make sure your sundial is stuck to the floor so it can’t move. Use plasticine around the edges to make it extra secure.

Wait for 1 hour then go out and see where the shadow has moved to. Stick the next number where the shadow falls. Be careful not to move the sundial. Our next number will be 1 for 1 o’clock.

Continue this on the hour throughout the day.

You now have a working sundial! On the next sunny day you will be able to tell the time by looking to see where the shadow falls.

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