



Make Your Own Sundial!

Before the invention of mechanical and digital clocks, people relied on where they saw the sun in the sky to tell the time. One tool to help them do this was a sundial. There are different kinds of sundials, but many consist of a flat dial with markings for the hours and a raised piece, called a gnomon. The sundial is held so that the gnomon casts a shadow on the dial. As the sun's position changes in our sky, the gnomon's shadow moves, pointing to different markings and showing the time.

Directions:

- Select the template that most closely matches the latitude where you live.
- Print the template. Printing at any size, in any orientation will work. Heavy paper works best, but regular copy paper works, too.
- Cut out the sundial around the circle and the triangular area between the 6 o'clock lines.
- Fold the sundial in half along the center line between the HMSC logos.
- Fold the two sides up along the lines that read "True North." The center should pop up to create the gnomon.
- Use a glue stick or tape to hold the two sides of the gnomon together.
- Take the sundial outside on a sunny day and place it on a flat surface.
- Use a compass to find the direction of true north. Turn your sundial so the gnomon points north.
- Look to see where the gnomon has cast its shadow to tell the time!

Note: This sundial tells local solar time and will be a few minutes off from the time on your watch, depending on where you live in your time zone. The time will be off by one hour during daylight savings time.