Sundials

What Is a Sundial?
A sundial is a clock that uses the sun to tell time. The sun shines on a rod, or gnomon, which casts a shadow upon the face of the sundial. The shadow will show the time of day.

How to Make a Sundial
1. Make your sundial unique by coloring it with crayons.
2. Place the wooden stick (gnomon) in the center hole.

How does a Sundial work?
The picture below shows the path that the sun takes across the sky each day – from east to west.

Sunlight hits the gnomon and casts a shadow. The location of the shadow depends on the location of the sun in the sky, which changes as the day goes on.

How to Use Your Sundial
1. Find North using a compass.
2. Rotate the sundial until 12 o’clock points North.
3. Hold the sundial so it is slightly tilted.
4. The shadow left by the gnomon will act like the hour hand of a clock.