



Shadows and Time

When sunlight falls on an object, the object's shadow points away from the Sun. The length and position of the shadow change²⁵ as the Sun appears to move across the sky. When the Sun is low in the sky, shadows are long. At noon, when the Sun⁵⁰ is high overhead, shadows are short.

People in ancient times did not have clocks. Then they noticed how shadows changed during the day, and they⁷⁵ built sundials that used shadows to tell time. A sundial is a disk with numbers around the edge that represent hours. An angled piece sticks¹⁰⁰ up from the center of the sundial and casts a shadow. You tell time by noting where the shadow falls on the sundial.¹²³