

Day Thirty: May 30, 2020

DIY SUNDIAL FOR KIDS



Materials:

- A stick
- 12 rocks or sea shells
- Paint or markers
- A place in the yard that gets some sun!

Instructions:

- 1) First, find a sunny area (preferably in a garden or flower bed) where you can build your sundial. You'll probably need a circular area that measures between 10 - 12 inches in diameter.



- 2) Put one end of your stick into the ground so the opposite end points towards the sky.

You'll have to watch the stick's shadow over the next few hours to see if you need to tilt it. ***Be sure to have your kids make a prediction about which way the shadow will move!***

The goal is when the sun is directly overhead at 12 noon, you want the shadow of your stick to be the shortest.

- 3) Once you find the shortest shadow, place a marker at that spot for 12.

Take a few small rocks and number them to use as placeholders while timing your stick's shadow and decorating your rocks/shells.



- 4) **Check the stick's shadow on the hour to get an idea of how far apart your seashells or rocks will need to be on your circle.**

In theory, each rock or seashell would be equal distance from one another on the circumference of your circle but that really will depend on where you live since the sun varies by latitude.



- 5) **Decorate your sundial's seashells and write the numbers 1 - 12 on each one.**

This is the fun part so give the kids time if they want to come up with a cool theme or style!

Tip: If you want to use chalk markers or acrylic paints, use Mod Podge or clear nail polish over the numbers once they dry and you'll create a more water-resistant finish on your shells.



- 6) **Based on your stick markings (or place markers), set up your sundial clock by placing the shells where the shadow falls on each hour.**

You can check the sundial on various hours the next day to see how your clock is working. You may have to adjust a few of your shells.

Now the kids can run to the garden to see what time it is!

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