



Desert Habitat

BUILD YOUR OWN SUNDIAL • WATER PAINTING
NATURE PLAY ACTIVITIES



Extended Learning Partnership

Desert: Nature Play Activities

Build your own sundial – learn to tell time by using the sun!

Materials:

- A stick or straight object that can be stood straight up and down
- Chalk, or a hula hoop (something that you can make a circle with)
- A rock or object that can be used to mark North
- The sun!
- Optional: Any other materials needed to stand your stick straight up and down



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Instructions:

1. Find a spot outside that is sunny all day long, and won't be shaded by your house or a tree.
2. Draw a large circle with chalk, or place a hula hoop in your sunny spot (if you don't have either of these items, you can draw a circle in dirt or get creative and find your own way!)



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3. Use a rock or other object to mark where North is on your circle (if you don't know which way is North, ask an adult, use a compass, or ask an adult to use a compass app on their phone). Your North marker is the 12:00 position on a clock.



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4. Place your stick or straight object in the center of the circle, and stand it straight up and down (you may need to get creative to accomplish this – see picture below). If you are making your sundial on dirt, you can just place your stick in the ground.



*In this picture, the time reads about 9:30



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Your sundial is complete! The shadow made by your stick marks the time, like the hands on a clock! Leave your sundial out in the sun and check on it throughout the day. As the sun moves, the shadow from your stick moves around the circle, keeping the time. Since this is just for fun, you can use a real clock to see how accurate your sundial is!

With your new skill, you can always know the time, even if you don't have a clock!



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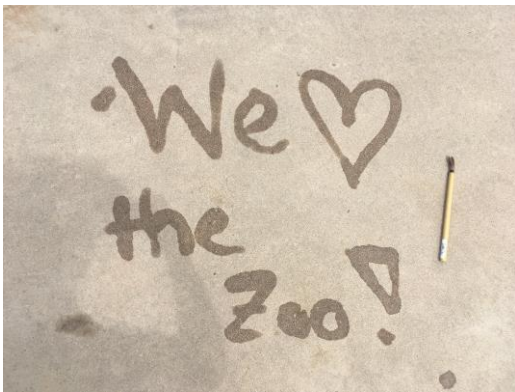
Paint with water!

Materials:

- A bucket of water
- Paint brushes, sponges, or your hands!
- A cement surface to paint on

Instructions:

1. Gather your materials and head outside.
2. Use water to paint on the cement. Try to paint some desert animals, get creative!



When it's hot outside, notice how quickly your artwork dries. How fast do you think water dries up in a desert?

