

# Earth:

## The little blue planet that we call home.

The Earth is the third planet from the sun and it is home to over 6 billion people. The closest star to the Earth is the Sun and without it our little blue and green planet Earth would not exist.

Not only does the light from the sun make it easy for us to get around because we can see where we are going, but the sun gives us light and heat and provides the energy that we need to grow food so that life on earth can survive. The sun is our source of life and we would not be alive without it.

It takes 365 days for the Earth to orbit around the sun and it takes 24 hours for the earth to rotate itself which gives us day and night. People have been using the sun to tell the time for centuries.

Why not try to tell the time using the sun by making a simple sundial in your garden or playground.

Make sure to share your fun by uploading photos and videos of your science week sundial on [www.scienceweek.ie](http://www.scienceweek.ie)



## Make a garden sundial

### Materials Needed

- long stick /pole
- small stones / wooden markers
- a sunny day :-)

1. Outside, on the next sunny or bright day find an open space to make your sundial that will not be in the shade throughout the day.
2. In the morning place the stick or pole upright in the ground
3. As the sunlight hits the pole it will cast a shadow on the ground. Place a stone or wooden marker where the shadow from the pole falls and check the time. (e.g. this marker could be 10am.
3. The position of the sun in the sky changes throughout the day as the earth rotates and continues to orbit around the sun
4. Throughout the day check the sundial and mark where the shadow falls and the time. At the end of the day you will have your very own garden sundial.

