One More Idea: The Turn Is a Clock

REVEAL AT REVIEW | 5 MIN TO SET UP · CHECK BACK ALL DAY | A STICK · SUNSHINE · A FEW PEBBLES

The point

You learned that the sun stands still while the Earth turns you past it. Here is one more idea: **that turn is a clock.** A stick's shadow is the hand of it. As the Earth rotates, the shadow sweeps slowly around the stick — not because the sun moves, but because the ground the stick stands on is turning. People told time this way for thousands of years. It is called a **sundial**.

Do it

1. On a sunny morning, stand a **stick** straight up in the ground (or tape a pencil upright on a paper plate set in a sunny window).
2. Put a **pebble** at the tip of its shadow. Say the time out loud.
3. Come back every hour or so — the shadow has **moved off the pebble**. Mark the new tip with another pebble.
4. By afternoon the pebbles make a slow **arc** around the stick. Ask: *"Did the stick move? Did the sun move? Then what moved?"*
5. Tomorrow, check the pebbles again: the shadow keeps the **same appointments** — the turn is that steady.

> *Say: "Every clock in the world is really copying this one — one full turn of the Earth, cut into hours."*

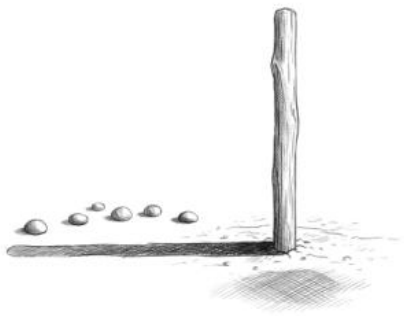


Fig. 1 — the shadow sweeps like a clock hand: it is the ground, not the sun, that moves

What to watch for

- The moment a child sees the shadow has **left** the first pebble — let them say why before you do
- Someone racing out after lunch to check — encourage the vigil

A PEEK AHEAD

If one whole turn makes one whole day… then hours, noon, and why clocks far away disagree all hide inside the turning. Time and the Earth's turning get their own lesson soon.