

Reading time

The TICK TOCK of Time

01

Imagine a world without time. Without **quarter** to eight, or **half** past three, or midday, or midnight. It isn't easy because time is an important part of modern life. But for most of history, humans lived by the Sun, not a clock. They got up at sunrise. They ate when they were hungry. They stopped work at sunset. And they slept when they were tired.



02

Some people measured time. The Ancient Egyptians, for example, had tall obelisks. When the sun crossed the sky, the **shadow** of the obelisk fell on different marks on the ground, and these told the time.



Sundials also used a shadow to **tell the time**, and were popular in many places.

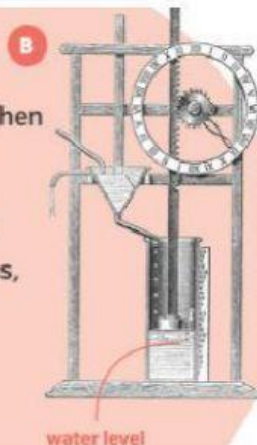


03

Of course, sundials and obelisks didn't work on cloudy days or at night. In Ancient China, Greece and Rome, there were water clocks, too. Water ran slowly out of one bowl into another, and the water level told the time.



Three and a half **centuries** ago in Holland, a man named Christiaan Huygens **invented** the first clock with a pendulum. When the pendulum moved from side to side with its tick tock sound, it moved the cogs inside the clock. The cogs moved the hands on the clock face. In the next **decades** and centuries, there were more and more clocks.



04

05

Lots of modern clocks and watches are digital. They've got a battery and a very small quartz crystal inside. The numbers on the screen tell the time. Today there are clocks in every home and every classroom. We measure every day of our lives by **hours**, **minutes** and **seconds**.



Read the article again. Answer the questions.

1. WHEN DID MOST PEOPLE GET UP IN THE PAST?
2. WHEN DID MOST PEOPLE SLEEP IN THE PAST?
3. CAN YOU TELL THE TIME WITH AN OBELISK ON A CLOUDY DAY?
4. WHAT MAKES THE TICK TOCK SOUND IN A CLOCK?
5. IN WHAT WAY WERE SUNDIALS THE SAME AS OBELISKS?
6. WHAT KIND OF CLOCKS HAVE A SCREEN?
7. WHO INVENTED THE FIRST CLOCK?
8. WHAT DID THE FIRST CLOCK HAVE?
9. WHAT DO CLOCKS LOOK LIKE IN THE MODERN LIFE?
10. HOW DO WE MEASURE EVERY DAY IN OUR LIVES?

