



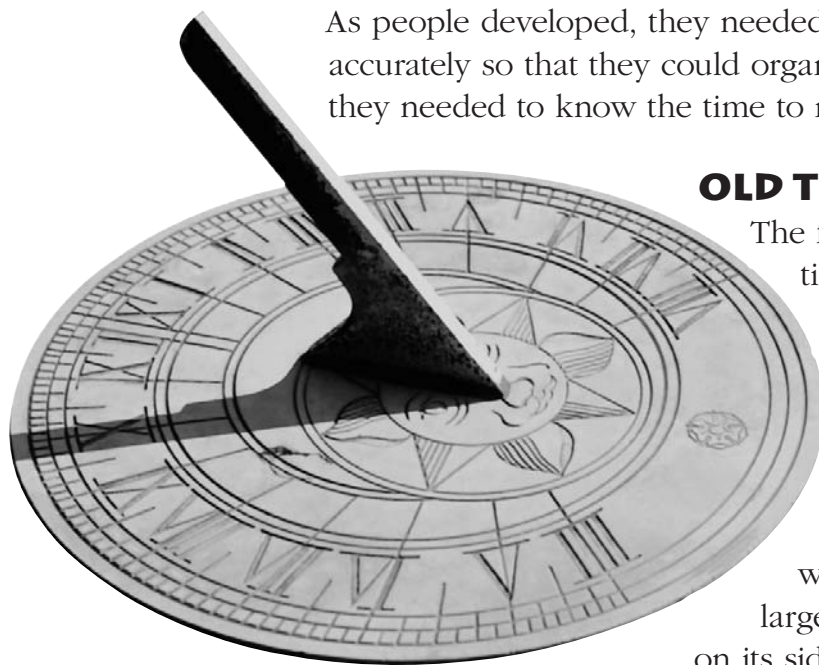
# TELLING THE TIME

*What is the time? The chances are you will only be a few minutes wrong with your guess. We are very aware of time but in the past, time did not matter as much to people. When towns and cities grew and people could travel quickly between countries, knowing the time everywhere became more important.*

## TIME – THE ORGANIZER

For the earliest people there were two divisions of time: daytime and night-time. Daytime was the time to hunt and collect fruits and roots. If people wanted to know how much of the day was left they looked to see if the Sun was rising or sinking in the sky. Night-time was the time to sleep.

As people developed, they needed to measure time more accurately so that they could organize their lives. For example, they needed to know the time to meet together for work.



## OLD TIMERS

The first invention for measuring time was the **sundial**. It measured the length and direction of a shadow cast by an upright rod. When the day was cloudy or when it was night, a clepsydra or water clock was used. This was like a large bucket with markings on its sides and a small hole in the

As the Earth spins round, the shadow will move across the sundial.

bottom. As water dripped out the time passing was measured by the changing position of the water level. The sundial and clepsydra were invented 2000–3000 years ago. Clocks have been used for about 600 years.

