

Cover Feature

Monday 30 May 2016





Obelisks (方尖碑)

THE ancient Egyptians (埃及 人) are believed to be the first to divide the days into hours. They used the markings on obelisks and the moving shadow from the Sun to tell the time.



THE sundial in Egypt was the first portable timekeeping device ever found on Earth. People read it using the shadow cast by the Sun. It divided time into 12 equal parts of daytime and nighttime.



Water clock (水鐘)

THE water clock measures time with



the flow of water. It either flowed out of or filled up a container. People checked how much time passed by observing the level of the water.

Hourglass (砂漏)

THIS was invented after the water

clock. Sailors changed from water to sand since it was more accurate to use. It has been used for other purposes since then, such as timing cooking.



▲ A Chinese water clock



THIS is a mechanical clock. The swinging pendulum is the main clock part used to keep time.





The invisible clocks

Living things have 'biological clocks' that time their living patterns.

For animals, roosters crow in the morning and squirrels store nuts for the winter. For plants, trees lose their leaves in autumn, new leaves grow in spring.

For humans, this clock lets us know when to sleep and eat every day.

