Daylight Detective

SD-B142 / STRATEGISTS · AGES 10–12

Compute daylight minutes across five dates and find the trend.

YOU NEED: Pencil, a sunrise and sunset table for your town (a grown-up can print one)

ANALYZE	Choose five dates spaced across the year. Look up sunrise and sunset for each.
CHOOSE	Compute daylight minutes: sunset minus sunrise, in minutes.
TEST	Fill in the table. What do you see as the dates move through the year?
REFLECT	Which date has the most daylight? Explain it using what you know.

DAYLIGHT TABLE

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight (minutes)

The trend

The daylight goes

So the longest day is

A prediction

Next month the daylight will

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A little help beside the learner. Read this page first; keep the answers here.

LEARNING GOAL
Practice reading a table, computing time and spotting a trend.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN
You need: Pencil, a sunrise and sunset table for your town (a grown-up can print one). None needed beyond pencil and paper.

HOW TO GUIDE
Use any local sun table. To convert, count hours times 60 plus minutes. For example, sunrise at 7:10 and sunset at 4:40 pm give 9 hours 30 minutes, which is 570 minutes. The Earth's tilt causes the pattern; talk about it if your child is curious.

WHY IT MATTERS
Real data about our own sky shows seasonal patterns. Computing times strengthens number skills.

LOOK FOR THIS REASONING
Look for correct minute conversions, dates in order and a trend described in words.

IF THEY GET STUCK
Ask: how many minutes are in an hour? How would you subtract 7:10 from 16:40? Try the hours first.

MAKE IT GENTLER
Use just three dates.

ADD A LITTLE STRETCH
Add dates for another city and compare.

A USEFUL STOPPING POINT
Check the real sunset tonight against the table.