

marking
time

at the History of Science Museum
Key Stage 3/4



Teachers' Info

Before your visit

Look at two websites:

History of Science Museum's website - www.mhs.ox.ac.uk
it contains downloadable trails, basic and technical information and links.

The Artefact website - www.museums.ox.ac.uk/artefact is a customized site for art students with many images.

Be prepared for an introduction:

Your museum introduction will give valuable background information on the Museum and its collection.

Students' Info

During your visit

A01: Recording Observations, Experiences and Ideas.

The sample sketchbook page with this sheet can be photocopied and will help students in the process of recording their own observations and ideas while in the Museum.

A02: Evaluating artefacts, understanding their contexts.

Students can collect information to annotate their work by looking at object labels, talking to staff and collecting printed guides and postcards.

Extra Info

After your visit

A03 Developing and exploring ideas.

Look at the Student Gallery on Artefact which illustrates ways in which schools and colleges have developed their ideas. Some suggestions are:

Print and pattern work based on cogs, wheels, chains and pendulums.

Invent a time device utilizing sound, sand, sunlight or water to record the passing of time.

Design a personal clock using memorabilia such as songs, places and people which mark our life line.

A04 Making connections with the work of others.

Google Images - sundials, water, sand, and incense clocks.

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THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS
NATURAL HISTORY ASHMOLEAN
PITT RIVERS HISTORY OF SCIENCE

at the History of Science Museum

marking time

Did You Know?

DID YOU KNOW?

The ancient Egyptians used giant obelisks as sundials. The obelisk cast a shadow during the day which changed length and so divided the day into times. The obelisks were known as gnomons and one stands in London, it is 21 metres tall and is called Cleopatra's Needle.



DID YOU KNOW?
You can also make clocks using water. People from Greece, China and India all used the water clock to measure time. Particularly they were used for measuring the speech of a lawyer, so they didn't go on too long! They have been called clepsydras, or 'water thief'.



DID YOU KNOW?
The word 'clock' comes from the Latin word 'clocca' which means bell. Originally, clocks were devices that marked the hour by striking a bell or a chime. Some later clocks developed all kinds of chimes from cuckoo sounds to songs and trumpets!



DID YOU KNOW?

The first mechanical clock using a pendulum was invented by Galileo. The swing of the pendulum and the turning of cogs kept the marking of time regular. Mechanical clocks appeared in Europe in the 13th century and became highly decorated with moving figures and animals.



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Art activity

START

This clocks activity is designed for GCSE and 6th Form. It will take you about an hour. Before you start make sure you have the Clocks Map and the Example Sketchbook. Follow the four steps and keep to time.

STEP 1

Exploring and selecting. Time: 10 mins.
Using the Clocks Map find the places where clocks are displayed. Notice the different ways in which people mark the passing of time; sometimes by sound, smell and sight. They use the sun, fire, incense and sand. Other examples include candle wax and water clocks.



STEP 2

Drawing and Recording. Time 20 mins.

Using pencils and pens make drawings of your chosen timepieces. Notice the fine detail in some pieces such as a bird's beak to mark the sun's movement, or by contrast the patterns of heavy wooden cogs and iron chains and pendulums.



STEP 3

Collecting a range of information. Time 15 mins.

Make notes from the object labels about the timepieces, how the clocks are used, how small or large they are, what material are they made from and in which country were they made. Sketchbook in an attractive way.



STEP 4

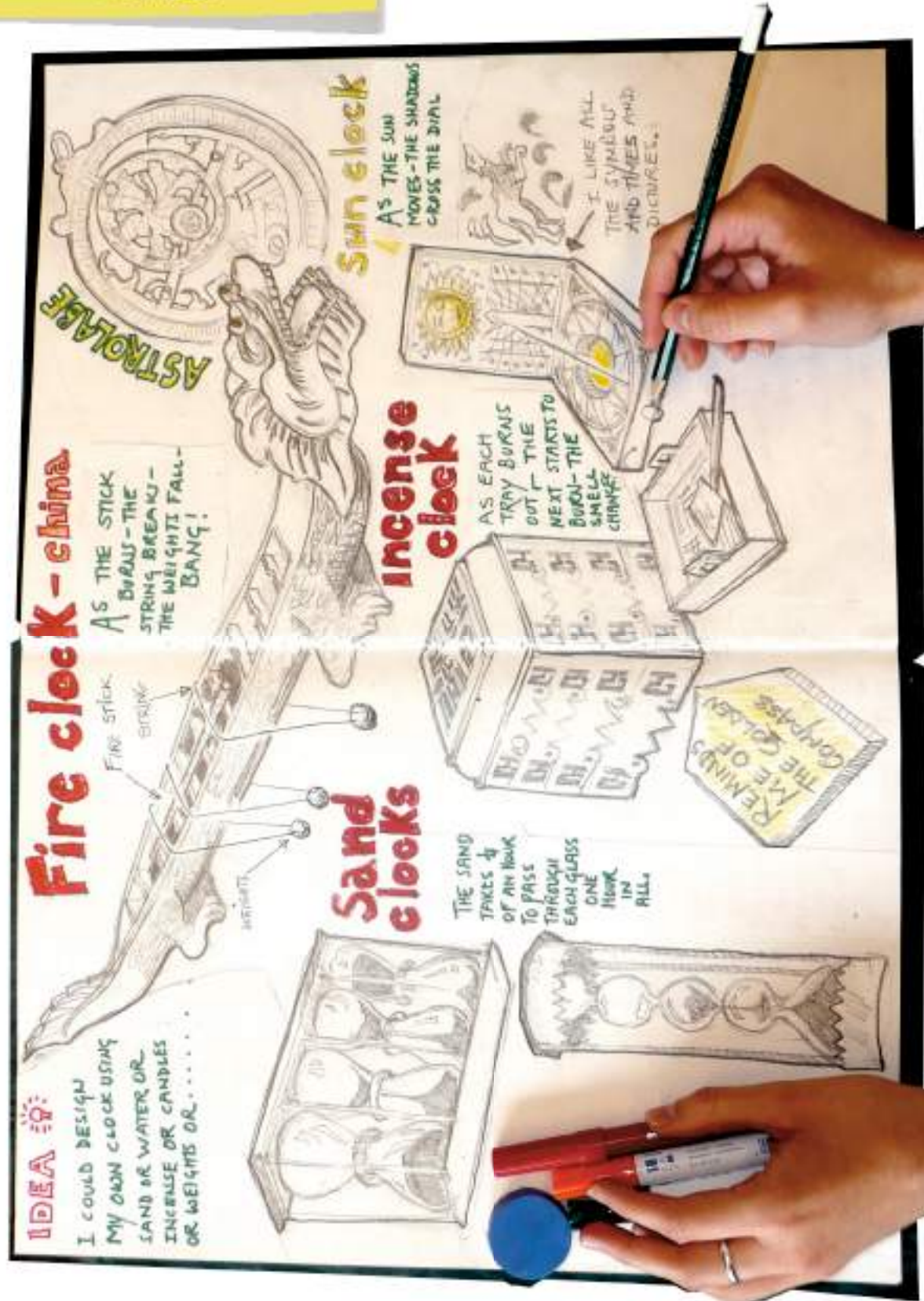
Record your own ideas and experiences. Time 10 mins.

Make notes in your sketch book about anything of which the timepieces remind you, such as a film like "Back to the Future" where time is important, any music with a regular ticking beat like a clock or a story with a race against time. Finally note down any ways in which you could invent a timepiece using sand or candles or water or wax or any unusual material to mark time passing.



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Example sketchbook



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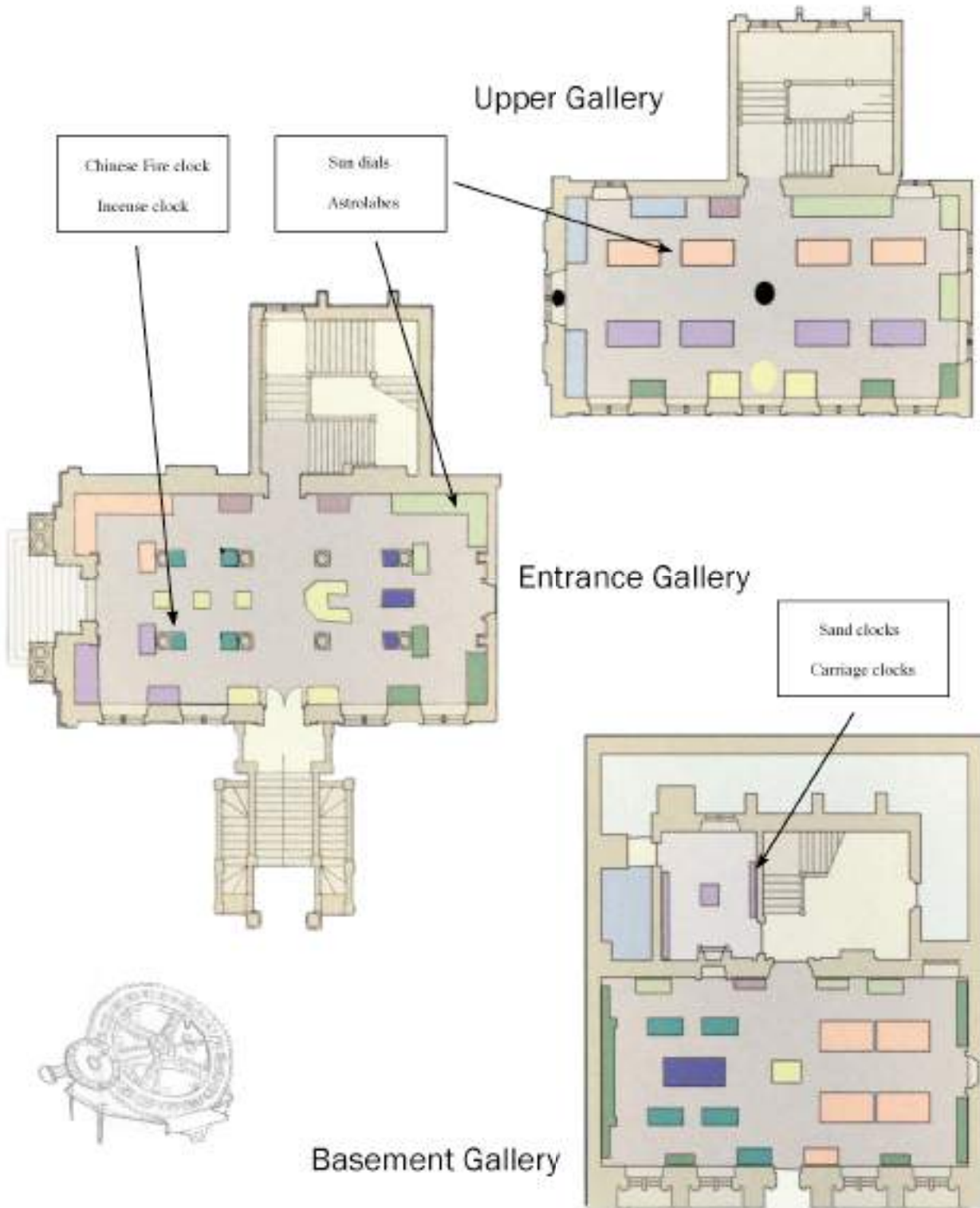
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Map of the History
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