• Discuss how Aboriginal peoples could tell what time it was before the introduction of clocks and watches.

• Aboriginal peoples knew whether morning or night was approaching by observing and listening to their environment:
  - the sun rising and setting and it’s movement across the sky
  - bird activity at dawn and dusk
  - The length of shadows
  - wind direction at particular times of the year

• The sun, moon and stars are used by Aboriginal peoples to tell the time, both daily and calendary. Day and night are distinguished by the rising and setting of the sun and moon and the positioning of stars in the night sky, eg. Pleiades (Seven Sisters) and the Southern Cross.

• Calendary
  - The position of the sun rising. The sun rises in different positions and at different times in different seasons.
  - The position of the sun setting. The sun sets in different positions and at different times in different seasons.
  - Wind direction during specific seasons of the year.
  - The Pitjantjarra people observe that when the Seven Sisters appear in the morning sky, dingoos whelp. This indicates a specific time of year on a seasonal calendar.
  - In Broome, Aboriginal people understand that when the wattle is flowering, the jinnup (stingray) is fat and ready to be hunted for food.

• Investigate the movement of the sun. Make a sun clock or a shadow stick. Collect and graph data on the longest/smallest shadows.

• Investigate in detail the different uses or the beliefs about the sun Aboriginal people have. Link to other cultures, beliefs and uses.

• *Astronomy and Australian Indigenous people* contains a wealth of information, activities and Dreaming stories related to the skies, including the Aboriginal seasons, time and weather.

**Resources**