

5. Understanding Time

Time has three parts. What has gone by is the past. What is going on now is the present. What is yet to come is the future. 'Today is Monday'. The word 'today' shows the present time. 'Tomorrow is my birthday'. The word 'tomorrow' shows the future. 'Yesterday, Granny told me a story'. The word 'yesterday' shows the past. Time can be understood using means such as calendars, school timetables, etc.



Can you tell ?

- For which purposes do we use a calendar?
- When and why do you turn the page of a calendar?
- What do the numbers in a calendar tell us?



A calendar



Do you know ?



A statue



Coins



Shards of pottery

It is important to understand 'time' for studying history. Sometimes, old statues, coins, shards of pottery, etc. are found while digging the foundation of a building. These things are studied carefully. Through these studies, we come to know about the period of time to which they belong.



Use your brain power !

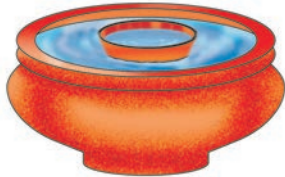
Today's newspaper becomes old tomorrow. But, if we cannot remember a particular fact, we search through old newspapers to find the information we need. This means that today's newspaper will, tomorrow, become an important means of getting to know history.



Can you tell ?

How do we measure time ?

To understand time, we divide it into seconds-minutes-hours, day and night, fortnight, month, year. In this way, time can be measured. Water-clocks, clocks and the calendar are instruments of measuring time.



A water-clock



An hourglass



A calendar



Do you know ?

In the fourteenth century, the hourglass came into use in Europe. It consisted of two connected glass vessels fitted in a wooden frame. Dry fine sand was poured into one of the vessels. The connecting hole between the vessels allowed the sand in the top vessel to fall into the lower vessel. The hourglass was constructed in such a way that it took one hour for all the sand to fall from one vessel into the other. The clock was turned over as soon as all the sand had fallen into the lower vessel. This is how a period of one hour was measured. These clocks were used in India, too.



Try this.

Stick photographs of yourself from the past and present in the frames below. In the frame of the future, draw a picture of what you will look like in 20 years.



Past

Present

Future



Can you tell ?

- Why do we make partitions of time in different ways?

For convenience of everyday work, time is divided in different ways. For example, while using words like ‘now’, ‘a while ago’, ‘in a while’ or ‘today’, ‘yesterday’ and ‘tomorrow’, we are unknowingly measuring time in our minds.



What we have learnt –

- * For convenience of day-to-day work, time is split into parts. When we use words like ‘right now’, ‘in a while’ or ‘later’, we unknowingly measure time in our minds.
- * Time is measured by using instruments such as clocks, calendars and school timetables.
- * Time is divided into parts such as second-minute-hour, day and night or week, fortnight, month and year.
- * We get an understanding of time through historical buildings or old objects, like coins, statues or shards of pottery found in an area. They help us to understand the history of that place.



Exercises

A. Answer the following questions in one sentence.

- Which instruments are used for measuring time?
- How do we divide time in order to understand it?

B. Match the following :

A

- What has gone by
- What is going on
- What is yet to come

B

- Present
- Past
- Time
- Future



Activity

Find out the English and Marathi months in which the birthdays of your family members occur. Write the names of these months in the proper order.