

# Sextant

A sextant

A **sextant** is an object used for [navigation](#) which measures angles. The user is able to measure the angle between the horizon and an object in the sky, such as the sun, a star, or a planet. It originally could measure angles up to 60°, which was one sixth of a circle.<sup>[1]</sup> This is how it got its name from the [Latin](#) word *sextus* (six). It helps work out positions of [latitude](#) and [longitude](#).

## References

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1. <sup>↑</sup> ["Sextant from"](#). *McGraw-Hill Concise Encyclopedia of Science and Technology*. 2006. Retrieved 16 June 2011.

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