

"Water Clocks" – Reading

The early Greeks and Romans used water to tell the time. A large bowl with a small hole in the bottom was filled with water. As the water trickled through, the falling water level uncovered markings inside the bowl. These told how time was passing. This was an important innovation that helped them to see the length of time that different things were taking.

The Chinese and Indians used water clocks that worked the other way around. A small brass bowl with a tiny hole was floated on top of the water. As the bowl filled up, the water covered markings on its side. When the bowl sank, a gong was struck and the bowl was emptied and floated again. This shows another way that early people modeled time.

