

Try this too!

Performing the Clock

At each of the stops on the trail, make up a short action to represent the method of time-keeping explored in the activity.

Does time feel fast or slow here?

Will you move like a machine, or like something from nature?

Should your action be noisy or quiet?

At the end of your walk, stage a performance of all the actions in a sequence!

TICK TOCK

trail

Welcome to Collective, a centre for contemporary art based in the old City Observatory on Calton Hill.

Before everyone carried the time with them on watches and mobile phones, the Observatory was a place used by people to look at the stars to tell the time.

We hope you'll enjoy this activity trail, exploring Calton Hill and the histories of time and timekeeping present here. Imagine that the hill is a giant clock face: you'll be guided around the hill, following the hands of the clock!

4. Gorse

Gorse is one of nature's clocks – we can tell what season it is by looking at how many flowers are blooming.

Can you think of any other clocks in nature?

5. Trees

It's time to be a tree detective!

What different clues can we use to find out how old a tree is?

1. Transit House

The clock you can see in the window was used in the 1800's by sailors from the Port of Leith to set their ship's clocks.

Why do you think it has a face on the inside as well as the outside?

2. Nelson Monument

Every day at 1pm the Time Ball on the top of Nelson Monument rises and drops to mark the time.

How else is time marked at 1pm in Edinburgh?

(Clue: It's much noisier!)

3. Balmoral Clock

There's something different about this clock above Waverley Railway Station...it's always 3 minutes fast!

Why do you think that is?

6. Arthur's Seat

This peak is an extinct volcano and is 350 million years old!

What do you think the rest of Edinburgh was like 350 million years ago?