

Name _____



Solar vs. Standard Time

Before time zones, people measured time by the Sun's position in the sky, known as **apparent solar time**. Noon was when the Sun was at its highest point above the horizon. Today, we use **standard time**, which groups regions into time zones to keep schedules consistent across cities and countries.

Directions: Answer the following short-response questions in complete sentences.

1. What is **apparent solar time** and how do people determine it?

2. What is **standard time** and why did people decide to use it instead of solar time?

3. How do **solar time** and **standard time** differ in the way they measure noon?

4. Why is **standard time** more practical for modern life (such as trains, air travel, and global communication)?

Reflection Prompt: Imagine your town kept solar time while the next town used standard time. What problems might people face?
