

THIS LIT CANDLE WITH NAILS IS AN ANCIENT ALARM CLOCK.  
WHAT IS YOUR HYPOTHESIS AS TO HOW IT WORKS?



## SHARE YOUR IDEAS, MULTIPLE SOURCES PROVIDE THIS EXPLANATION.

---

“The ancient Chinese used candles to tell the time. Candle clocks were created by engraving the length of the candle with evenly spaced markings. Each marking represented a unit of time, an hour for example. As the wax burned down, each hour would melt away. To determine how much time had passed since lighting the candle, you checked the highest remaining marking. Cleverly the candle clocks could also function as an alarm clock. A nail would be inserted into the candle at a specific time mark and when the candle burned down to this point the nail would fall into a metal tray below,” and the noise would wake the sleeper.

- <https://www.maropeng.co.za/news/entry/telling-time-how-did-our-ancestors-do-it>