

# HOW TO MAKE A POTATO CLOCK (Cookie-Style!)

## Materials

Two potatoes (my favourite potatoes are Maris Pipers, but that's for making roast potatoes, not a potato clock)

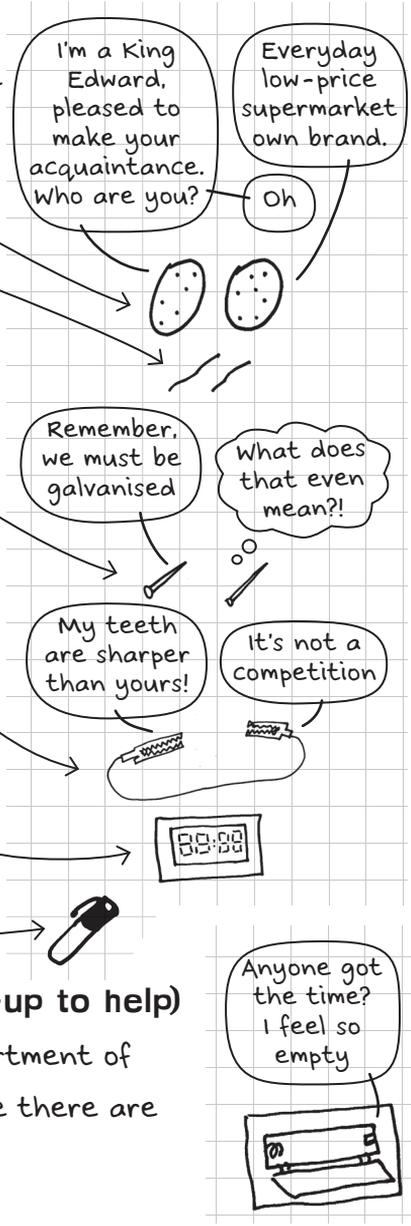
Two short pieces of heavy copper wire (you can probably get this in a hardware store or maybe your parents have some knocking about in their toolkit)

Two nails (must be galvanised – this means coated in zinc and therefore able to act as a negative electrode – that's just like the minus side of a battery)

Three alligator clip leads (they are called this cos they have teeth just like alligators)

Small portable clock that uses only one AA battery

A marker pen

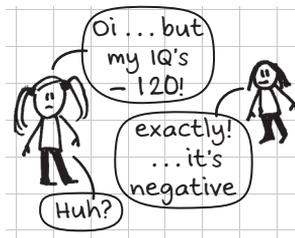


## Method (Get a grown-up to help)

Open the battery compartment of your clock and make sure there are no batteries inside.



Check that you know which are the positive and negative ends of the battery compartment. Just in case you have the same IQ as Suzie Ashby, the positive end is shown by the plus (+) sign and the negative end is shown by the minus (-) sign.



Draw a different face on each of your potatoes – one could be sad (your negative potato) and one could be smiley (your positive potato). Put a nail in each potato (now they're both sad! Joke! Potatoes don't have feelings!). Then put a copper wire into each potato as far away from the nails as possible.

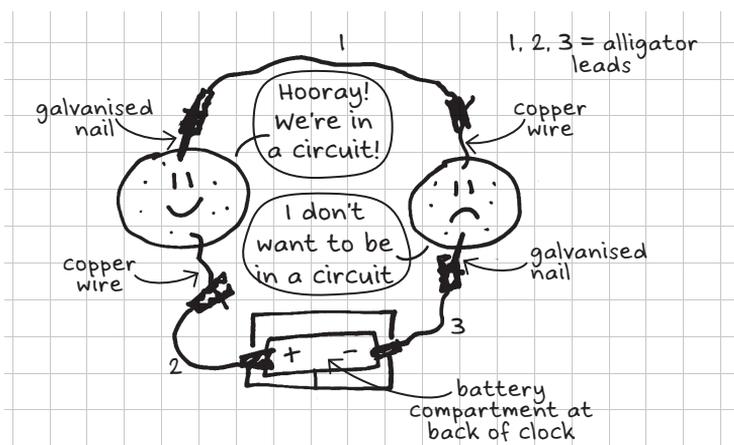


Take one of the alligator leads and connect the copper wire in your happy potato to the positive (+) end of your clock's battery compartment. Then take another alligator lead and connect the nail in the sad potato to the negative (-) end of your battery compartment. Make sure that the alligator clip doesn't touch anything else metal apart from the positive (+) or negative (-) end



of the battery compartment it's supposed to be connected to. Bit complicated, huh? But then again, we are creating an electrical circuit.

So far, we've only used two of our three alligator leads. Take the final alligator lead and clip one end to the nail in the happy potato and the other end to the copper wire in the sad potato.



## Results

This clock will tell the time as long as all the wires are connected properly. Hope you have a good time – ha ha ha!

## Conclusion

The copper wire, the nails and the potatoes create an electric circuit that currents can run through, powering the clock. Isn't science awesome?