

Calendars and the History of Time

Rob Waring



Series Editor **Rob Waring**

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Level 1 - 0

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Cover/Interior Design: Andy Roh

ISBN: 978-1-9464-5200-9

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

21 20 19 18 17

Time for All

All living things understand time. We notice the coming and going of days, seasons, and years.

We get old, we age, and we die.

Time is all around us.



Old and young

Time moves on, Kyoto



Waiting for rain

Being able to understand time and predict when it would rain, or be hot or cold, was very important to farmers and hunters.

We needed a schedule of time to record this, so we invented the first calendars.



Crops

A Calendar in the Head

The first calendars were in our heads. People counted the days, every new moon, or the days in the seasons. But this was not good enough to predict when to plant crops or bring the animals in for winter.



The Egyptian Calendar

One of the earliest calendars came from Egypt. It had 12 months of 30 days. Each month had three weeks, and each week had 10 days.



The Karnak Temple,
Luxor, Egypt



The four seasons



An Egyptian calendar, Karnak, Egypt

Comprehension Questions

- How do we understand time?
 - By the years
 - By the seasons
 - By the changes each day
 - All of the above
- Why was it important to record time?
 - So we could make a calendar
 - To plant crops
 - To predict old age
 - To view the moon
- The first calendars...
 - came from Europe.
 - were in our heads.
 - decided the seasons.
 - had 30 months.
- How long was the Egyptian week?
 - 7 days
 - 10 days
 - A month
 - We don't know.
- The Babylonians used ... to calculate the calendar.
 - days
 - seasons
 - the moon
 - the sun
- The Julian calendar...
 - had a "leap month".
 - is still used today.
 - was invented in 29 BC.
 - had 365 days.
- Today we use the ... calendar.
 - Egyptian
 - Babylonian
 - Julian
 - Gregorian
- Time zones are measured...
 - from London.
 - from Tokyo.
 - from Paris.
 - from Los Angeles.
- What year is 2020 AD in the Buddhist calendar?
 - 1020
 - 1896
 - 2020
 - 2564
- Where is the International Date Line?
 - In London
 - In the Pacific Ocean
 - On the equator
 - In Rome

Glossary

- **ancient** very old
- **Anno Domini** referring to years after Jesus Christ was born
- **Babylonian** concerning the ancient city of Babylon
- **BC** referring to the years before Jesus Christ was born
- **Buddhist** referring to the religious teachings of Buddha
- **calendar** a schedule of dates that shows a year
- **complicated** not simple or easy
- **crop** a plant or plant product that is grown by farmers
- **Egyptian** concerning Egypt
- **Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)** the point at which time zones are measured from
- **equator** the imaginary line equal in distance from the North and South Pole
- **founder** a person who starts something
- **inaccurate** not correct, accurate, or true
- **invent** to create something through thought
- **leap** a large jump
- **phase** a particular period or stage during a process of change
- **predict** to say that an event will happen in the future

World History Timeline

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This chart shows a rough overview of world history.
Some of the dates have been simplified.

World History Timeline



World History Timeline

