

Calendar Worksheet



Your name: _____ Date: _____

Others in your group: _____

Our system of keeping track of units of time is based on astronomy. Ancient people looked at the sky and noticed *cycles* (events that repeated on a regular schedule).

- One day is how long it takes for the Earth to turn on its axis, so the Sun appears to return to the same position in the sky (1 day = 24 hours).
- One month is how long it takes the Moon to go through a full cycle of its phases, for example from full moon to the next full moon, about 29.5 days.
- One year is how long it takes for the Earth to go through the full cycle of its seasons (or to orbit the Sun once; 1 year = 365.25 days).
- One week is a made-up unit of seven days (based on the seven wandering objects in the sky visible to the ancients: the Sun, the Moon, and five visible planets).

Try dividing the length of the lunar cycle into the year. Does it come out even? Do any of the cycles divide evenly into any of the other cycles?

How can we make a yearly calendar that includes at least days and months and works so that it can start over again after 365.25 days? Discuss any and all ideas group members have and write your suggestions below:
