

Calendar Count Worksheet

If someone asks you when your birth date was, you probably answer them by giving a month, day, and year. But that's not the only way to record passing time. Different cultures have used different calendar systems to mark time. One such system used by the Maya culture is called the Maya Long Count. In this activity, you'll figure out your birth date in Maya Long Count.

Part I

Most people today measure time in days, months, years, decades, and centuries, based on what's known as the Gregorian calendar system. The ancient Maya measured time in kins, uinals, katuns, and baktuns based on the Maya Long Count system. The numbers add up to the number of days since the beginning of the Maya Fourth Creation (which is calculated as August 13, 3114 BCE, on the Gregorian calendar used today).

Procedure

- 1 Your first task is to convert a Maya Long Count date into days. In Maya Long Count, the date December 31, 1987 is recorded as 12.18.14.11.16
- 2 Use the "Maya Long Count Conversions" chart below to convert each Long Count place value in the date above to days and then add up all five values to calculate the total number of days. Write your answer below.

Days from the beginning of the Maya Fourth Creation to December 31, 1987 = _____

Maya Long Count Conversions

Maya Long Count dates are written as a series of numbers separated by periods.

12	18	14	11	16
baktun	katun	tun	uinal	kin
				

baktun = 144,000 days
 katun = 7,200 days
 tun = 360 days
 uinal = 20 days
 kin = 1 day

Part II

Procedure

- 1 Now, using the "Days in Each Month/Year" chart below, calculate how many days there are from January 1, 1988, to the day you were born. Note that leap years have an extra day in February.

Your Birth Date _____

Days from January 1, 1988, to your birth date = _____

Days in Each Month/Year	
(Leap years are noted in bold .)	
Days in Month	Days in Year
January = 31	1988 = 366
February = 28/29	1989 = 365
March = 31	1990 = 365
April = 30	1991 = 365
May = 31	1992 = 366
June = 30	1993 = 365
July = 31	1994 = 365
August = 31	1995 = 365
September = 30	1996 = 366
October = 31	1997 = 365
November = 30	1998 = 365
December = 31	

Part III

Procedure

- 1 Add the number of days from the beginning of the Maya Fourth Creation to December 31, 1987, and the number of days from January 1, 1988, to your birth date. Write the total in below.

Days from the beginning of the Maya Fourth Creation to your birth date = _____

- 2 Now it's time to convert the number of days since the Maya Fourth Creation to your birth date back into Maya Long Count. Use the "Maya Long Count Conversions" chart to turn the number of days into Long Count. Write the conversions in below.

_____ . _____ . _____ . _____ . _____
baktun katun tun uinal kin

- 3 Congratulations! Now when somebody asks you when you were born, you can say "Do you want to know by the Gregorian calendar or Maya Long Count?"