

Case study on different types of calendars

How Many Calendars Are There?

There are over 40 different calendars used around the world. Many countries and religions have their own calendar to track the days, months, and years. Here are the 3 main types of calendars:

Lunar Calendars

A lunar calendar tracks time using the monthly cycles of the moon's phases. It measures the time between one new moon to the next.

Solar Calendars

A solar calendar is based on a solar year, which is the time it takes for Earth to rotate around the sun. It measures the time between vernal equinoxes.

Lunisolar

A lunisolar calendar uses both the moon phases and the time of the solar year to track time.

Throughout history, each country and religion has used a lunar, solar, or lunisolar calendar. We're basically all over the place when it comes to tracking time!

Calendars Based on Religions



Hindu Calenda

Year: 1000 BC **Type of Calendar:** Lunisolar

The Hindu (Panchanga) calendar has been used in India for thousands and thousands of years. It's very similar to the calendar we use in America, but there are only 354 days instead of 365. This calendar marks religious holidays in the Hindu faith such as Diwali, Navrati, and Holi, also known as the festival of colors.



Buddhist Calendar

Year: 544 BC **Type of Calendar:** Lunisolar

There are 7 countries in Southeast Asia that use the Buddhist calendar: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Singapore. This calendar is derived from the Hindu calendar and is broken into 12 months with 29 or 30 days. It's used to keep track of important religious observations.



Jewish Calendar

Year: 70 BC **Type of Calendar:** Lunar

The Hebrew or Jewish calendar is still used in Israel today. Like other religious calendars, it's used to denote sacred holidays and other important dates. It also provides a time frame for agriculture, so crops like wheat, corn, avocados, and mangoes can be grown in the appropriate seasons.



Islamic/Muslim (Hijiri) Calendar

Year: 622 AD **Type of Calendar:** Lunar

Those of Islamic or Muslim faith use the Hijiri calendar to track time. It is similar to the Gregorian calendar since it has 12 months, only these are broken into sacred months and non-sacred months. There are also no leap months or days to account for the difference in length of a solar year.



Catholic (Gregorian) Calendar

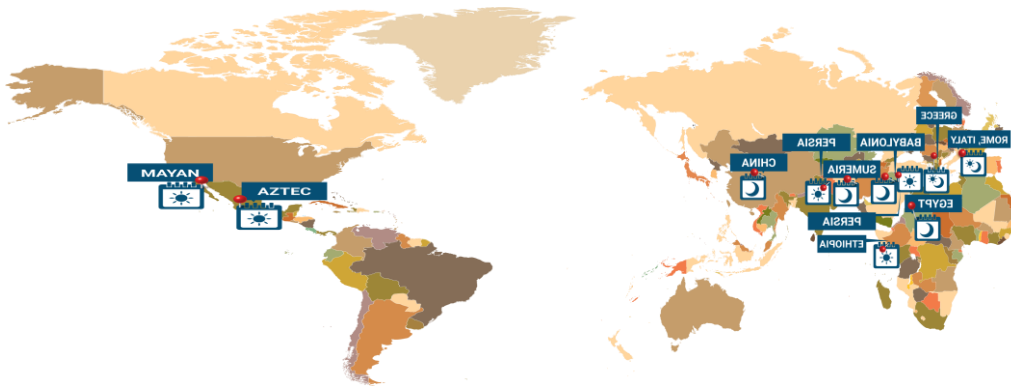
Year: 1582 **Type of Calendar:** Solar

Pope Gregory XIII in Rome wasn't a huge fan of the Julian calendar, so in order to spread Catholic ideas, he introduced the Gregorian calendar in 1582. Surprisingly, his main motivation was to make sure that everyone was celebrating [Easter](#) on the correct day. Now the Gregorian calendar is used by a majority of the countries all over the world.



What Are the Different Calendars From Around the World?

Get your passport ready – it's time to travel around the world to learn more about calendars! Each culture, from the west to the east, has a system of tracking time that was established thousands and thousands of years ago.



Ancient Calendars Of The World



Sumerian Calendar

Year: 3100 BC **Type of Calendar:** Lunar

People in Mesopotamia (present day Iraq) were the first to use a calendar. They formed days and months based on the first sighting of a full moon, but unlike the calendar we use today, they didn't have any weeks! A year also had only 360 days.



Egyptian Calendar

Year: 2510 BC **Type of Calendar:** Lunar

Egyptians used the night sky to track the passage of time. The star Sirius was particularly important as it would rise like clockwork the same time every season. It would also be next to the sun every 365 days, which helped the Egyptians know when a year had passed.



Roman Calendar

Year: 738 BC **Type of Calendar:** Lunisolar

The Roman calendar has had quite the journey. The first one was introduced by King Romulus in 738 BC. This was eventually replaced by the Julian calendar. Finally, the Gregorian calendar was introduced and is now the most commonly used calendar in the world.



Mayan Calendar

Year: 500 BC **Type of Calendar:** Solar

Many people believe that the Mayans predicted the end of the world in 2012, but according to BBC News, this is “a big misunderstanding.” It turns out the Mayans tracked “A Great Cycle,” and December 21, 2012 just happened to be the end of one cycle and the beginning of the next.



Chinese Calendar

Year: 500 BC **Type of Calendar:** Lunar

While the Chinese calendar is based on the first day of a new moon, and has leap months rather than days, it’s best known for being associated with the zodiac. Each month is associated with an animal. This includes: a rat, ox, tiger, hare, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, fowl, dog, or pig. The Chinese calendar is used in China as well as in Korea, Vietnam, and the Ryukyu Islands.



Babylonian Calendar

Year: 499 BC **Type of Calendar:** Lunar

We have the Babylonian calendar to thank for the 7-day week. They tracked the time it took for the moon to transition between each of its phases. The week would start and end at the crescent moon.



Greek Calendar

Year: 400 BC **Type of Calendar:** Lunisolar

One calendar wasn't good enough in ancient Greece! They used 5 different calendars to keep track of the cycle of solar equinoxes and the cycle of the moon and stars. The most common was the Athenian calendar, also known as the Attic or Civil calendar.



Ethiopian Calendar

Year: 400 AD **Type of Calendar:** Solar

Did you know that Ethiopia is technically 7 to 8 years behind? This is because they base their calendar on different Christian beliefs than the Gregorian calendar used by a majority of the world. The Ethiopian new year also takes place in spring rather than in the winter.



Persian Calendar

Year: 1000 – 1100 **Type of Calendar:** Solar

Back in the 11th century, people in Persia used the vernal equinox to track the start of a new year. This calendar has since been changed many times and is the calendar used today in Iran and Afghanistan.



Aztec Calendar

Year: 1500 – 1521 **Type of Calendar:** Solar

The Aztec calendar wasn't the typical wall calendar we use today. It was actually a stone that was considered sacred to people in central Mexico. The stone was carved with a ton of different mythological and astrological figures including the sun god, Tonatiuh.

What Are the Best Calendars to Use?

You can use many different types of calendars to keep track of appointments, birthdays, and other important dates. Choose the best calendars to keep up with your particular schedule. This may include:

- Planners
- Wall calendars
- Desktop calendars
- Digital calendars
- Magnetic calendars
- Printable calendars
- Dry erase calendars
- Photo calendars
- Coloring calendars
- Advent calendars
- Promotional calendars