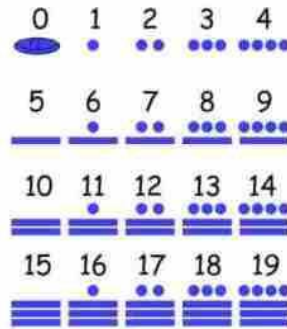


Writing, Numbers, and Calendar

Numbers

The Maya used a number system with the base number of 20 (we use a base-10 number system). They wrote numbers using a system of bars and dots. A bar represented the number 5. Every 5 numbers they added another bar. The number zero was written with a symbol that looked like a shell. See below for an example of how the Maya wrote the numbers 0 to 19.



Calendar

The Maya had two kinds of calendars, a religious calendar called the Tzolk'in and a solar calendar called the Haab'. Every 52 years the two calendars would start on the same day.

The solar calendar, or Haab', had 18 months of 20 days each. There were five extra "unlucky" days in the 19th month to get to total of 365 days in a year. They numbered the days in the month from 0 to 19. Here is a list of the 19 Maya months in the Haab' calendar:

The religious calendar, or Tzolk'in, was a 260-day calendar. This calendar has two cycles, a 20 day cycle and a 13 day cycle. Each day has a name and a number. The name comes from the 20 day cycle and the number from the 13 day cycle. Here is a list of the 20-day cycle names:

- | | | | |
|------------|--|------------|-----------|
| • Pop | • Sak' | • Imix | • Chuwen |
| • Wo | • Keh | • Ik | • Eb |
| • Sip | • Mak | • Ak'b'al | • B'en |
| • Sotz' | • K'ank'in | • K'an | • Ix |
| • Sek | • Muwan | • Chikchan | • Men |
| • Xul | • Pax | • Kimi | • K'ib |
| • Yaxk'in' | • K'ayab | • Manik | • Kab'an |
| • Mol | • Kumk'u | • Lamat | • Etz'nab |
| • Ch'en | • Wayeb (month with only 5 unlucky days) | • Muluk | • Kawak |
| • Yax | | • Ok | • Ajaw |

The Solar calendar

The Religious calendar

Beginning and End of the World

The Maya also had a third calendar they used for historical purposes. It was called the Long Count Calendar. The Long Count calendar started on August 11, 3114 BC. This was the day on which the Maya believed the world was created. Some people think that the Maya also predicted the end of the world to be on December 21, 2012.

Further Links

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/mayans/mayan-calendar/>

https://kids.kiddle.co/Maya_calendar