# Astronomy Introduction

#### **Ancient Cultures**

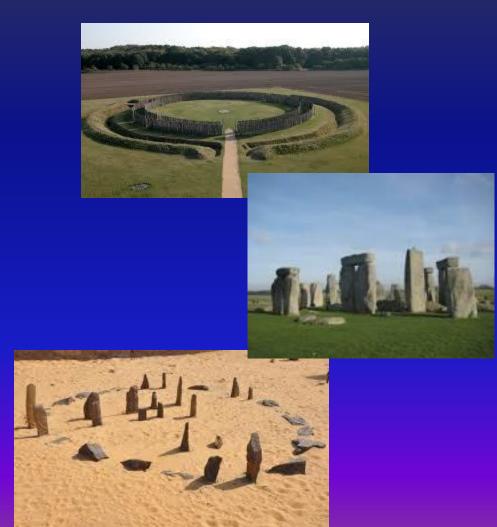
- Ancient cultures used the 5 senses to make observations to explain the events that occur on Earth around them.
- Many used gods and goddesses to explain natural phenomenon such as earthquakes, eclipses, and season changes.
- Many cultures tried to explain the things in the "heavens" and how they were moving and influenced or effected life on Earth

#### **Ancient Cultures**

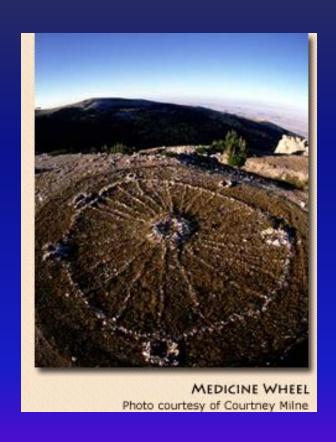
- Ancient cultures were master observers of the sky.
- Many the first calendars were used to keep track of time using the phases of the moon
- Calendars also let ancient cultures know when to plant and harvest food based on angle of the sun in the sky.

## First Calendars

 Ancient cultures created calendars as a way to help them keep time. Gosek, Germany has one of the oldest known calendars. Stonehenge in Salisbury, England is another monument used as a calendar.



## First Calendars



 Many ancient cultures like the Greeks, Egyptians, and Native Americans organized calendars based on the lunar cycle. In one year the moon would repeat 12 different lunar cycles

## First Calendars

- Eventually, the calendar was organized into days, months, and years.
  - Day time it takes earth to rotate one time on its axis
  - Month time for moon to orbit Earth one time
  - Year time it takes the Earth to orbit the Sun one time
- But how did we get the calendar we use today?

#### A Short History of the Calendar

Click on the title to open the video