

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