

# Introduction to Astronomy

What is a good definition for Astronomy?

If you can, name one “astronomer” here: \_\_\_\_\_

In the box below, describe this person’s contribution, discovery, or motivation for studying astronomy:

In the box below, describe how you think the motivation of this person to study stars would be different from that of people who lived centuries earlier than him or her?

Actually, we probably wouldn’t even call a star and sky expert, from ancient times, an astronomer. We might use terms like: farmer, mariner, hunter, etc. In the space below, describe how understanding the stars would be an advantage to a:

Farmer—

Sailor—

Hunter—

In fact, most early sky observers actually used the movements of stars and other celestial objects to organize time. In other words, they started to build calendars. Some early cultures who constructed interesting and accurate calendars are listed below. Briefly describe the foundation of each culture's calendars in the spaces provided.

Culture	Calendar Characteristics
Mayan	
Chinese	
Egyptian	
Hebrew	
Native American	

Below, describe the evolution of our modern calendar:

Describe the contributions of the following cultures to the science of astronomy (red book pg 484-485):

Babylonians—

Ancient Chinese—

Ancient Greeks—

Native Americans—

Ancient Arabs—