

ALL IN GOOD TIME



Did you know that the ways we keep time are... all made up? Dates, calendars, and clocks are all created by humans to make sense of time. This also creates a shared understanding in the way we interact; it'd be difficult to schedule an appointment if we couldn't describe when the appointment is supposed to happen!



*Ancient
Maya calendar*

Some cultures conceptualize time as cyclical, meaning that time comes back around. The ancient Maya believed that if they experienced a victory in a battle on a given day with specific celestial events observed, then they would see a victory in another battle started on the same day the next time it came back around on the calendars, if celestial events were also the same. **Other cultures conceptualize time as linear, meaning that it only moves forward.**

A lunar calendar is aligned with the moon's phases. **A solar calendar is based on the sun, specifically on the amount of time it takes for the Earth to return to the same spot in the cycle of seasons.** This is off by about 20 minutes from the time it takes for the Earth to make a full trip around the sun, due to the precession of the equinoxes, which is a small, gradual shift in the position of the Earth's axis due to the gravity effects of the sun and moon. These are just two ways of organizing time, but they're certainly not the only ways!

