



Ancient Mayan Calendar

Hiru no

Hoshi

No. 260

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"The adoption of a new calendar in each dispensation is a symbol of the power of Divine Revelation to reshape human perception of material, social, and spiritual reality."

-Universal House of Justice



The children were sitting around the kitchen table doing their homework. Mother was helping little Anisa learn her ABCs. Mona looked up from her Social Studies book and said, “We are studying about different calendars around the world, it’s really interesting!”

“You mean everyone doesn’t use January, February, March...?” asked Shahla.

“No!!” replied Mona, “That is called the ‘Gregorian Calendar’ It is used now in Europe and America, and Japan too.

“Except that here in Japan we count the years differently, don’t we Mom!” Put in Riaz.

“Yeah! That’s right.” said Asma, not wanting to be outdone, “Here in Japan we start counting from the beginning of when the Emperor came into power.”

“What?” said Shahla, “I don’t understand! What POWER?”

“That means when he started his job!” explained Mona.

So we say ‘Showa’ and the number of years since the Emperor started his job...which was around 1925, right Mom?”

Mother laughed, “Mona you probably know more about Japanese calendars than I do. You seem to be the Calendar Scholar here!”

“So what other calendars are there?” asked Riaz.

“Well,” said Mona, proudly, “There are two major kinds of calendars, Lunar and Solar. Lunar Calendars look at the moon and judge the days by the shape of the moon. Solar Calendars look at

where the sun and the stars are, and judge where in the year we are. One of the first calendars was the Babylonian calendar; it was thousands of years ago. It had lunar months. There was 28 days, in a month, and that’s where the 7 day week started because there are four 7s in 28 days.”



Chinese Calendar



An ancient lunar calendar about 34,000 years old

“I thought that we had seven days because of the Bible” said Asma. “The Bible says that God made the world in 6 days and on the 7th one He rested. That’s why Sunday is a day of rest.” explained Asma.

“Well”, said Mother, “probably both reasons are correct. The Jewish, Christians and Muslims who follow the Bible use the six days of work, and one day, the Lord’s Day...only that day is different for each religion.”

“Well, we know the Christians have Sunday as the day you go to church.” said Riaz.

“And the Jewish people use Saturday as the Sabbath!” added Asma.

“And the Muslims?” asked Mother.

“The children all looked at each other.

“Wait, it’s here in my book, just a minute!” as Mona started turning the pages in her Social Studies Book.

“Fridays!” She shouted. “They go to Mosque to pray on Fridays!”

“Why Fridays?” asked Shahla.

“I don’t know,” said Mother, “maybe Mona can research that question and let us know.”

“But”, continued Mother, “every culture has a way of dividing time, it’s a way of organizing their lives. They organize the days into segments...according to where the sun is, remember the sun dials that measure the sun going across the sky, to tell time. The month is divided into days and weeks, the years are divided into months or seasons...and then, the years are also grouped. Some modern cultures call them decades, centuries and millenniums.”

“And the Chinese and Japanese use 12 year cycles and name them for the animals! I was born in the year of the Sheep.” said Mona.

“I’m a Chicken”, said Asma. “I’m a Boar”, said Riaz. “I’m a Rat!” added Shahla.

“What animal am I?” asked little Anisa.



Ancient Egyptian Calendar

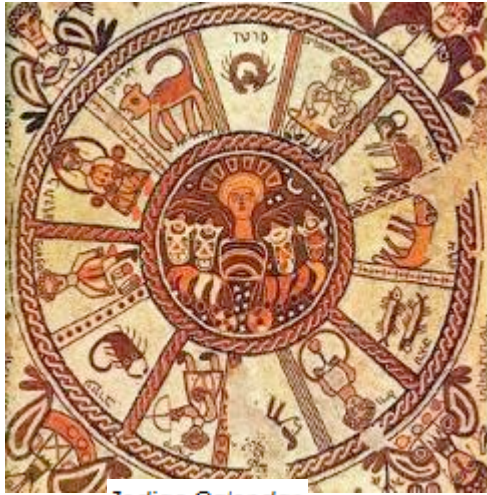


Sun Dial



Chinese Clock





Zodiac Calendar

“Ah, I don’t know, maybe our little Calendar scholar can find out for you.” teased Mother.

“Tiger, Anisa, I told you that last week when we were looking these up!” said Mona, sighing.

“But Mom, what about the signs of the zodiac, is that a calendar too?” asked Asma.

It is not so much a calendar, as it is a road map. People use it to mark the path that our sun seems to travel.

Because our earth goes around the sun during the year, it changes where in the sky our sun appears to be...and, what we see in the sky, changes. That’s how they determine the start of the seasons, and how far along in the year we are, by what stars they can see. On the ground we could use mountains or rivers or trees to mark where we are. But, in the sky, we use the stars to see where we are. Some



Zodiac Calendar

people long ago mapped the stars, and to make it easy to remember, they gave groups of stars names; like (Scorpio) the Scorpion, (Taurus) the Bull, (Leo) the Lion, (Aries) the Ram. There are 12 signs. The Solar Calendars use those signs as a road map to determine when the year begins and when different things happen, like spring, or winter.”

“So Mona, getting back to the world’s calendars, do the Jewish people and the Muslims use the Gregorian calendar?”

“Ummmm, just a minute...”and she quickly

searched her book. “No! The Jewish people and the Muslims use lunar calendars, but the Gregorian one is mostly Solar. The Jewish and Muslim calendar’s months have 29 or 30 days and our months have 30 or 31 days and February has 28. And the calendars all begin at different times.” Mona, said proudly, looking up from her book.

“Well, how can we all live together on this planet with people counting time differently...wouldn’t that get really confusing?” asked Riaz.



Ancient Hebrew Calendar



Ancient Babylonian Calendar

“Very good, Riaz! You are absolutely right. Baha’u’llah said the world needed one language, one system of weights and measures, one kind of money, and one calendar, for everyone in the world to use. For most of those things, all the countries have to get together and decide on, but the World Calendar, He gave to us! Baha’u’llah said to use the Badi Calendar, the one The Bab left us. ‘Badi’ means ‘Wonderful.’” explained Mother.

“Yeah! I forgot about that calendar!” said Mona. “It’s the one we Baha’is use! It has 19 days and 19 months, with 4 days left over each year, that are called...”

“Ayyam-i-Ha!! When we get PRESENTS!” shouted Anisa.

“... and the first day of the month we go to Feast!” added Shahla.

“I remember that 19 years make up one Vahid!” put in Asma.

“It is just like Mom was talking about, organizing time into days, days into months, months into years, and years into groups of years!” shouted Riaz.

“Great job guys!” encouraged Mother. “And the Badi Calendar starts on the first day of Aries, remember the Zodiac signs? When the sun enters the Zodiac sign of Aries it is the first day of spring, and the first day of our New Year, the month of Baha!”

“Do you guys remember the names of the rest of the 19 months?”

“OF COURSE!” they all shouted, because of the song!” and they all started singing.

“Baha, Jalal, Jamal, Azumat, Nur, Ramat, Kalimat, Kamal, Asma, Izzat, Mashiyat, Ilm, Qudrat, Qawl, Masail, Sharaf, Sultan, Mulk, Ala.”*

“Very nice,” praised Mother. “Each day of the month, also has a name, you haven’t learned those yet. Maybe that can be the next thing we learn”

“Well, we will need a song if we are going to memorize all the names of those 19 days!” declared Riaz, and everyone laughed.

“So the whole world is going to be using our 19 Day Calendar?” asked Mona.

“Yes, in the future.” answered Mother. “That is when the world will really start to be united. Let’s pray that that day comes soon, shall we?” Mother said, smiling.

“I have been learning stuff about world calendars from my textbook, but

now I know something that the people that wrote the textbook didn’t know!” said Mona proudly.

And all the children clapped their hands.



“Ok, enough talking, everyone get back to your homework!” laughed Mother.

And that is just what they did.

**For the song of the 19 months that the children sang, go to this site.*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-db-_aOR4s

The Badi (Wonderful) Calendar



Quiz

1. Do all the people around the world use the same calendar now?

2. What is the difference between a Solar and Lunar Calendar?

3. What was one of the first calendars?

4. What is the Western calendar called, the one that uses January, February...?

5. How many years are in a Chinese Calendars Cycle?

6. Do all the Calendars use Sunday as a rest day?

7. What is the World Calendar called?

8. How many days in the Badi calendar?

9. How many months in the Badi Calendar?

10. What are their names? (You can listen to the song.)*

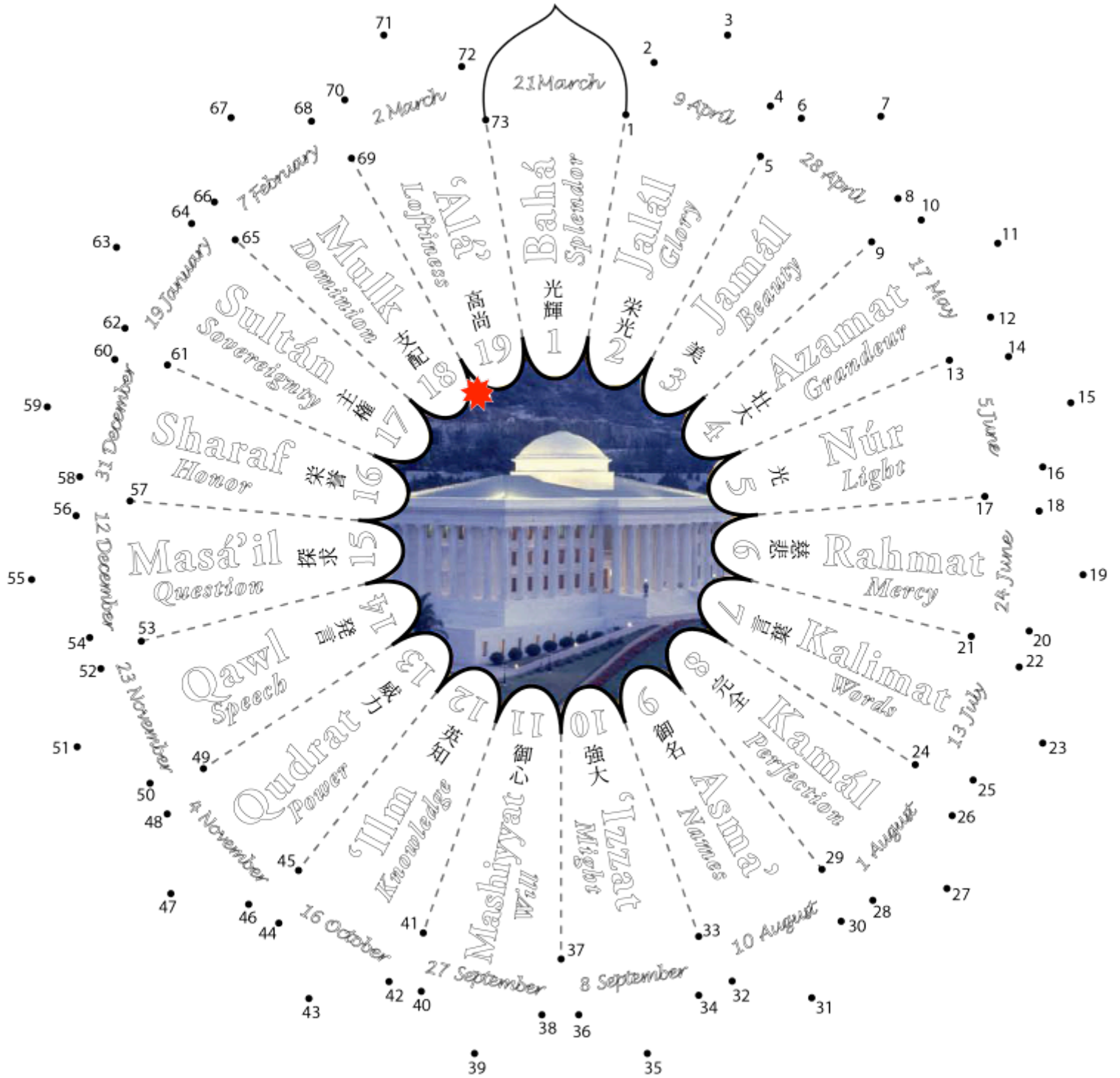
**How did you do? Did you get them all right? The answers are on the
Parents' Page.**



Dot to Dot

Connect the numbers from 1 to 73

then color your calendar!





Coffee Filter Art

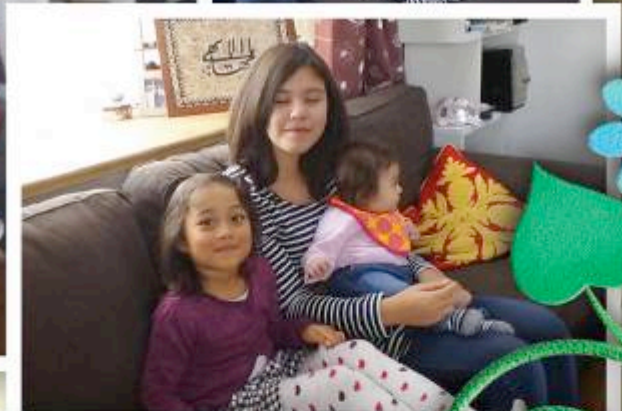
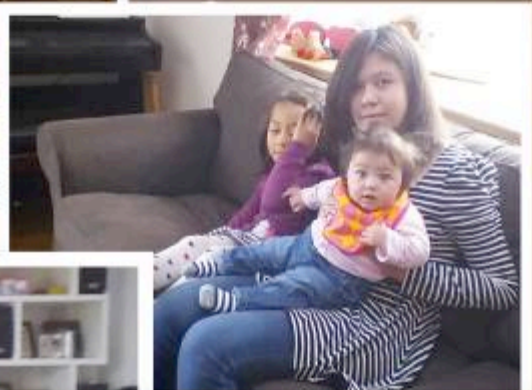
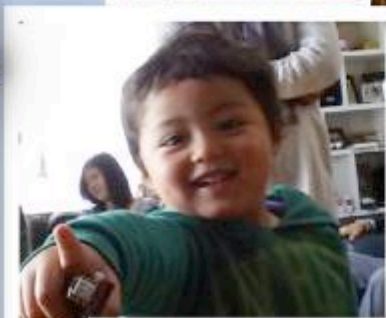
Materials

- *White coffee filter papers
- *Scissors
- *Water color markers
- *A big bowl with a little water in it
- *Construction paper
- * Glue

Method

- *Cut filter flat (into 2 pieces or one long piece.
- *Draw desired picture or design.
- *Hold one edge (or folded middle edge)
of the filter paper into the water.
- *Watch how the design changes until the water reaches the end of the paper.
- *Let dry, then mount as is, or cut design into interesting pictures and glue onto construction paper.





PHOTOPAGE

Parents Page

There are many photos of different world Calendars, ancient and modern, in this issue, we only talked about a few of them. Perhaps you could search online with your children, and find more information about some of these.

For more information on the Badi Calendar that will go into effect worldwide Naw-Ruz 2015 see the letter from the Universal House of Justice dated 10 July 2014.

For a detailed explanation and charts see Wikipedia, they seem to have very up-to-date information.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bah%C3%A1%27%C3%AD_calendar

Free Badi Calendar for Mac OS X Dashboard

<https://www.apple.com/downloads/dashboard/reference/twincalendarwidget.html>

“The adoption of a new calendar in each dispensation is a symbol of the power of Divine Revelation to reshape human perception of material, social, and spiritual reality. Through it, sacred moments are distinguished, humanity’s place in time and space reimagined and the rhythm of life recast. Next Naw- Ruz will mark yet another historic step in the manifestation of the unity of the people of Baha and the unfoldment of Baha’u’llah’s World Order....”

Universal House of Justice message July 10, 2014

Answers to the Quiz

1)No. 2) Lunar Calendars watch the moon to judge when the month is starting and finishing, Solor Calendars watch the sun and stars to judge where in the year we are.3)The Babylonian Calendar. 4) Gregorian Calendar. 5) 12. 6) No. 7) Badi Calendar. 8) Nineteen 9) Nineteen. 10) Baha, Jalal, Jamal, Azumat, Nur, Ramat, Kalimat, Kamal, Asma, Izzat, Mashiyat, Ilm, Qudrat, Qawl, Masail, Sharaf, Sultan, Mulk, Ala.



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