

Make a Calendar Like the Aztec

Introduction

Read the Aztec article on World Book Online.

“The ordinary Aztec calendar had 365 days, as does our calendar. It was divided into 18 months, each of which had 20 days. A month was divided into 4 weeks, which each had 5 days. That left 5 extra days at the end of the year, which the Aztec thought were unlucky days. This calendar set out the dates for ordinary events. It included the correct times for planting and harvesting crops, as well as for regular ceremonies. It showed that large markets took place every five days. Smaller ones took place only once a month.”

Materials:

Non-toxic paints & brushes, crayons, markers, or coloured pencils

Paper

Rulers

Bold black markers

Directions:

Work in small groups, individually, or with a partner to create a calendar based on the same methods that the Aztec used to create theirs. Make a monthly or yearly calendar and fill it with important events. Fill in days with Aztec-style drawings that demonstrate why the date is significant. You might choose to name the months after animals, as the Aztec did.