It’s About Time
The Science Behind Calendars

Objective: By the end of this assignment, you will be have researched and analyzed an ancient calendar and create a presentation to explain how ancient peoples used the Sun’s and the Moon’s movements to tell time and to create calendars.

Background: Calendars typically based on natural astronomical cycles. Three basic types of calendars have been created: solar calendars designed to match the year, lunar calendars based on the moon cycle, and lunisolar calendars have months based on the moon phase cycle with an extra month periodically inter-calculated. It is estimated that over 400 types of calendars exist!

Directions: You and your partner will be assigned one of the following calendars to research. For your given cultural calendar you will research the questions below and create a poster to guide your verbal presentation.

Aztec, Babylonian, Chinese, Egyptian, Hindu, Islamic, Jewish, Julian, Mayan, Buddhist, Japanese, Persian

Your research topic: ____________________________

Research Questions
1. Explain the scientific basis of the calendar (what type is it?).
2. When did this calendar originate?
3. Explain how the calendar works (some of these calendars are very complex – do the best you can to understand the basics)
4. Explain any rituals/holidays associated with the society.
5. Describe one of these rituals/holidays in depth.

Criteria For Success: A successful project will:
1. _____ Answer all five (5) questions in detail.
2. _____ Provide pictures which help to illustrate the information, with captions.
3. _____ Use four solid, reputable sources including two (2) books. Online encyclopedias count as books.
4. _____ Provide an APA or MLA formatted bibliography, including the sources used for pictures.
5. _____ A poster, with LIMITED, text to present your information.

Evaluation: This will count as lab grade using the rubric on the reverse side.
**Student Assessment:** Does my project have:

1. Five questions are thoroughly researched?
   a. ____ Question 1: Explain the scientific basis.
   b. ____ Question 2: When did the calendar originate?
   c. ____ Question 3: Explain how the calendar works.
   d. ____ Question 4: Overview of rituals and holidays.
   e. ____ Question 5: An in-depth look at one ritual or holiday.

2. ____ I used 3 – 4 reputable websites.

3. ____ I have an APA or MLA formatted bibliography.

4. My poster has the following criteria:
   a. _____ All information is in my own words!!!
   b. _____ Pictures must are clear, relevant, and well labeled!
   c. _____ Text is limited
   d. _____ Font is neat and easy to read
   e. _____ Bibliography is on the back

5. During my verbal presentation I will:
   a. Speak loudly and clearly
   b. Use good eye contact
   c. I will not read directly from my visual, rather I will use it as a guide

---

**Project Rubric**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Student evaluation</th>
<th>Teacher evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>/30</td>
<td>/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal Presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>/7</td>
<td>/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>/8</td>
<td>/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>/5</td>
<td>/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>/50</td>
<td>/50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>