

- **Calendars**

Are you looking \_\_\_\_\_ summer? In Saint Petersburg, where this article was written, a day can be less than \_\_\_\_\_ in the middle of winter and nearly \_\_\_\_\_. At this time of year, you can easily see in people's faces that they are ready for brighter, sunnier days to come round again.

- **Months from the moon and years from the sun**

To the first people it was obvious that time \_\_\_\_\_. The sun rises (comes up in the morning) and sets (goes down in the evening). The moon waxes (gets fatter or wider) and wanes (gets thinner or narrower). The seasons follow each other \_\_\_\_\_. These things happen because we are all going round in circles...the earth \_\_\_\_\_ round in 24 hours, the moon goes around the Earth, and the Earth goes round the Sun in about 365 \_\_\_\_\_. The most natural kind of calendar comes from the sun and the moon. You can count the number of days and nights in the moon's cycle from New Moon (when it is all dark) to Full Moon (a bright disk), and back again: \_\_\_\_\_. The basic problem for calendar makers is how to get the months (which come from the moon) to stay in synch with the years. The years all have a bit more than \_\_\_\_\_. Maybe you read about the Chinese New Year in Claire Powell's article in January. If you did, you already know that some years, the Chinese calendar has an extra month, so they have exactly \_\_\_\_\_ every period of 19 years. This article is about how the western world solved the same problem by adding an extra day \_\_\_\_\_ (and having longer months the rest of the time.)

- **Days and weeks from the planets**

You can't find any cycles \_\_\_\_\_ by looking at the sky. However, the ancient world knew five planets apart from the sun and moon: Venus, Mercury, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. They probably made the week seven days long to give \_\_\_\_\_. In English, the first days of the week clearly come from The Sun (Sunday) and The Moon (Monday). The last day comes from Saturn (Saturday). Just like the \_\_\_\_\_, an English week is a mixture of Latin and words from other places ... Germanic gods: Tiw (an Anglo-Saxon god of the sun and war) and Wodin (the head of Anglo-Saxon gods) for Tuesday and Wednesday and Scandinavian gods Thor (\_\_\_\_\_) and Frigg (goddess of love) for Thursday and Friday.

- **Months of the Year**

Our names of months all come from Latin. Janus a god \_\_\_\_\_, the god of doors and gates gives us January; and February comes from a Roman festival of spring cleaning. Mars, who didn't get a day of the week in English, got \_\_\_\_\_ month of March. Jupiter, \_\_\_\_\_ Juno – which makes the month of June. Most of the later months just come from the Latin words for numbers 7, 8, 9 and 10 septem, octo, nove, decem. But why isn't September month number seven? \_\_\_\_\_, because they started the year with March.

- **The Emperors' calendars**

July is occupied \_\_\_\_\_ Julius Caesar, \_\_\_\_\_ also occupied part \_\_\_\_\_ Britain. And August \_\_\_\_\_ Augustus Caesar \_\_\_\_\_ next Roman emperor. \_\_\_\_\_ men both played an important role \_\_\_\_\_ creating \_\_\_\_\_ modern calendar. The Julian calendar (which Julius introduced in \_\_\_\_\_) had a leap year every four years, when one day was added \_\_\_\_\_ end \_\_\_\_\_ year (as it was then) \_\_\_\_\_ February 29th. Julius' calendar was much simpler \_\_\_\_\_ old one, and it was pretty accurate, although not \_\_\_\_\_ good \_\_\_\_\_ Chinese one. It was only 11 minutes and 14 seconds a year **too** slow. Somehow, the people \_\_\_\_\_ calendars in Rome didn't understand \_\_\_\_\_ instructions and added an extra day every three years. Augustus, the next emperor, corrected that mistake but left the leap years \_\_\_\_\_, so the calendar went on being 11 minutes \_\_\_\_\_ too slow

