

Name _____

Date _____

Mayan Math

The Mayas developed a system of mathematics that was more advanced than the systems used by the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, or Romans. The Mayas were the first to use the idea of a zero. They used a picture of a shell to represent zero. A dot represented one, and a bar represented five. The Mayas used a base of 20 the way we use a base of 10. Their numbers were written from top to bottom instead of left to right as ours are. Some examples are given below.



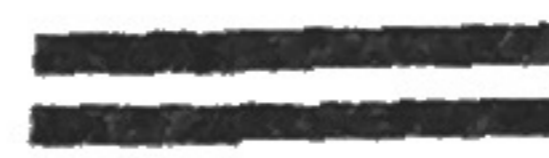
0



4



7



10



13



19

Fill in the missing Mayan number symbols.

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

Name _____ Date _____

What Day Is It?

Both the Mayas and the Aztecs used two calendars—a lunar calendar based on the Moon and a solar calendar based on the Sun. The lunar calendar had 260 days. The Aztecs divided the lunar year into 13 months, each having 20 days. Instead of having five or seven days in a week that repeated, each of the 20 days had a name, and it only occurred once a month.

Shown below are the heiroglyphs (picture words) and the names for the first five days of an Aztec month.



Cipactli
Crocodile



Ehecatl
Wind



Calli
House



Cuetzpallin
Lizard



Coatl
Serpent

Now draw heiroglyphs for the days of our week—Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. You might draw pictures of things you usually do on each day, or you may want to research how the days got their names and draw a related picture. Be creative!