

Calendar Scavenger Hunt

Name _____



- _____ 1. What is the rotation period of the Earth?
- _____ 2. Who instituted the Julian calendar? When?

- _____ 3. What is meant by a solar year?
- _____ 4. What is the name of the period of nine days the Romans called a week?
- _____ 5. The seven day week was adopted in 321 A.D. by whom?
- _____ 6. What day of the week is Dies Mercurii?
- _____ 7. What is a metonic calendar?
- _____ 8. In the Persian calendar, when does the new year always start?
- _____ 9. When was the “Year of Confusion”?
- _____ 10. Who proposed the Gregorian calendar?
- _____ 11. How many hours does .1 of a Julian day represent?
- _____ 12. What was the starting Julian date and time for Julian calendar?
- _____ 13. What is a modified Julian date for the Julian date 245000
- _____ 14. What measurement is based on the rotation of Earth on its axis with respect to the stars?
- _____ 15. In Roman Catholic countries when was the Gregorian calendar system instituted?

Calculating Julian Time: Astronomical software widely uses Julian dates as time variables. Julian dates (abbreviated JD) are simply a continuous count of days and fractions since noon Universal Time on January 1st, 4713 BCE on the Julian calendar. Almost 2.5 million days have passed since this date. Here are some sites to use for Julian Date conversions: <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/JulianDate.php> or <http://www.aavso.org/observing/aids/jdcalendar.shtml>

- _____ 1. What would the JD be for 1:00 PM in London on January 1st, 2000?
- _____ 2. What would the JD be for your birthday?
- _____ 3. What would the JD be for when Apollo 11 landed on the moon?
- _____ 4. What would the JD be for Isaac Newton’s birthday?
- _____ 5. What would the JD be for the launch date of the Spitzer Telescope?
- _____ 6. What is the JD for today?