Inside the Maya Calendar
An Introduction to the 2012 Excavations of the La Corona Archaeological Project in Guatemala

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Who were the Maya?
Maya Calendar?
Maya Calendar?
Long Count

• Absolute count of days since August 13, 3114 BC

• Analogous to our absolute count of years since January 1, 1 AD
• 1 k’ín = 1 day

• 1 winal = 20 days (20 k’ins)

• 1 tun = 360 days (18 winals)

• 1 k’atun = 7,200 days (20 tuns)

• 1 baktun = 144,000 days (20 k’atuns)
9.0.19.2.4

- $9 \times 144,000 = 1,296,000$
- $0 \times 7,200 = 0$
- $19 \times 360 = 6,840$
- $2 \times 20 = 40$
- $4 \times 1 = 4$

1,302,884 days since Aug. 13, 3114 BC
(Oct. 15, 454 AD)
birth

death

war

accession to the throne

ceremonial events

period endings
The Tzolk’ín

- 260 day sacred calendar
- Permutation of 13 numbers and 20 named days
The Haab

- 365 day solar calendar
- 18 months, each month 20 days, plus 5 day period
9.0.19.2.4
2 K’an 2 Yax
9.14.3.8.4
2 K’an 17 Suutz’
9.0.19.2.4
2 K’an 2 Yax
G8, 9 day cycle
Z7, 7 day cycle
7 days since the last new moon
3rd lunation in cycle of 6
29 day lunation
Roles of the Calendar

- astrological connotations
- agricultural cycles
- tracking the moon
- recording historical events
- period endings and anniversaries