

Caesar's Calendar Conundrum

7 The Julian calendar was created by Julius
15 Caesar in 46 BC. It replaced the Roman
20 calendar, which was a complicated
27 lunar calendar based on the phases of
33 the Moon. The Roman calendar needed
41 scholars to regularly decide when days should be
51 added or removed to keep the calendar in line with
53 the seasons.



60 To create a standardised calendar, Caesar worked
65 with an astronomer named Sosigene.

71 They made a solar calendar based
76 entirely on Earth's journey around
83 the Sun. This calendar had a regular
90 year of 365 days that were split
97 into 12 months. Every 4th year, an
104 extra day was added to February to
112 create a leap year. At the time, February
119 was the last month of the year.



127 The Julian calendar was replaced by the Gregorian
130 calendar in 1582.

Questions



1. Which calendar was based on the Moon?



2. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'difficult'.



3. Why do you think that the Julian calendar was replaced?



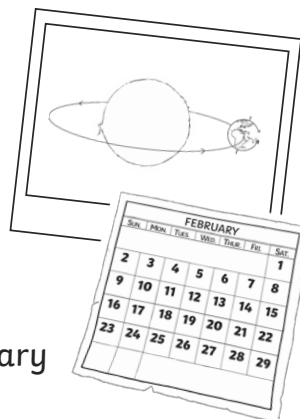
4. How does the Julian calendar compare to the calendar we use today? Explain your answer.

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Answers



1. Which calendar was based on the Moon?

The Roman calendar was based on the Moon.



2. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'difficult'.

complicated



3. Why do you think that the Julian calendar was replaced?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The calendar was possibly discovered to be incorrect or became outdated.



4. How does the Julian calendar compare to the calendar we use today? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The Julian calendar and the modern calendars both have leap years. However, February was the last month of the year whereas today it is the 2nd.