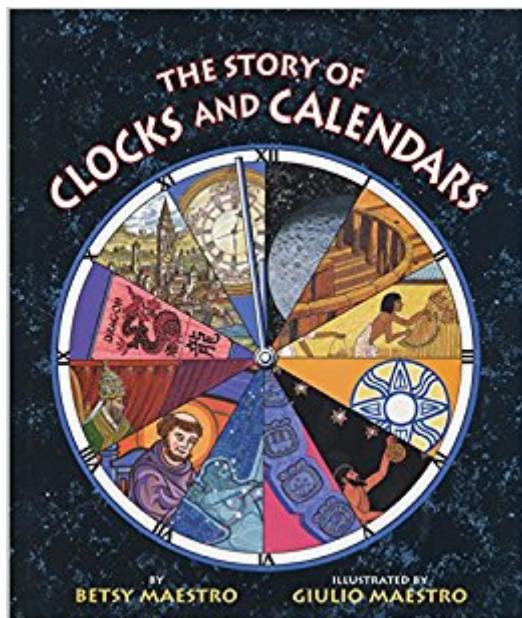


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# The Story Of Clocks And Calendars



## **Synopsis**

Travel through time with the maestros as they explore the amazing history of timekeeping! Did you know that there is more than one calendar? While the most commonly used calendar was on the year 2000, the Jewish calendar said it was the year 5760, while the Muslim calendar said 1420 and the Chinese calendar said 4698. Why do these differences exist? How did ancient civilizations keep track of time? When and how were clocks first invented? Find answers to all these questions and more in this incredible trip through history.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 1050 (What's this?)

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (November 2, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060589450

ISBN-13: 978-0060589455

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #52,995 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > How Things Work #30 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Ancient #48 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Astronomy & Space > Astronomy

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Betsy Maestro is the author of the "American Story" series, illustrated by her husband, Giulio. She has also written several other non-fiction picture books, including the Let's-Read-And-Find-Out science books *How Do Apples Grow?* and *Why Do Leaves Change Color?* The Maestros live in Old Lyme, Connecticut. Giulio Maestro is the illustrator of over 100 children's books. He has also written his own books of word play and has co-authored two I Can Read Books with his son, Marco: *What Do You Hear When Cows Sing*, and *Other Silly Riddles* and *Geese Find the Missing Piece: School Time Riddle Rhymes*. The Maestros live in Old Lyme, CT.

I am using this book in a math-through-history course I teach for all ages, including my own children, along with a similar book by Betsy Maestro, *The Story of Money*. These books are beautifully illustrated, with "denser" text than a picture book, and they fit a need for middle-grade level materials. I enjoy the simplicity of the text and stories, and find I can read these aloud to interested children of even younger ages if I can abridge the text and use the illustrations to advantage. Yet the material cannot be considered light, I learned a lot of history I never knew about before reading these books, and it whetted my own appetite to investigate the topic deeper. A great compliment to this book would be Marilyn Burns' *This Book is About Time*.

This is another book that I am using at the school where I am a volunteer librarian. It will remain as one of my useful reference books. Well written and illustrated.

informative

interesting book.

A great book. Very concise.....very informative. Worth the purchase for anyone interested in knowing how clocks and calendars came to be.

This book was copyrighted in 1999 and originally marketed for the hoopla surrounding the excitement of the approaching year 2000, an event well before most of the intended audience of today was born. Apart from the first 2 pages and the last 2 pages which are dated, the rest of the book is a solid presentation on the history and workings of time and calendars. Art and text are closely linked, interwoven to convey understanding of time and history. The explanation of the Mayan calendar makes full use of the text and illustrations and the reader can be allowed a "Wow! That is cool" moment as a few careful minutes of examination provide the student with an appreciation beyond the intended topic at hand. The Chinese lunar calendar gets colorful treatment. The description of solar, water, mechanical, and quartz clocks benefits from closely related illustrations that further enlighten the reader willing to pause from the text. A drawing of modern atomic clocks instantly reveals to the reader why we do not have one in our homes. The discussion of time zones would have benefited from a couple of pages on the history of land and ocean travel that resulted in the coordination of time. I would like to see an update of the book that adds a couple of pages on how GPS time via cell phone and computer has influenced our modern

lives. Useful trivia that did not fit conveniently into the regular chapter text is included in an informative appendix. It would have been great if the book included a bibliography as there are several interesting topics that invite further exploration and study. The story of time throughout recorded human history is given clear treatment in the text accompanied by beautiful, substantial illustrations which add meaning and clarity to the narrative. Sumerian, Egyptian, Babylonian, Chinese, and Mayan cultures are all given due credit in the development of time history before Arab, Greek, and Roman influences shaped our modern calendars. The role of calendars and religion is discussed for many religions around the world without condescension or cynicism. Given that the common calendar in the Americas and Europe are based on a Christian calendar, there is discussion of Catholic and Protestant influences. The Hebrew, Islamic, Julian, Persian, Ethiopian, and Coptic calendars are given enough detail (not much, just a couple of sentences) that the casual reader will learn something new. A bibliography for this section would have been wonderful. Well structured and informative, this book is a recommended reference should a young student need to research a report on calendars. I was tempted to give this book 5 stars, as it is very well executed, but will reserve the fifth star for an expanded 2nd edition.

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