

Name _____

Unlocking Time: The Ancient Egyptian Calendar System

Short Answer Key

1. The 12 months of the ancient Egyptian calendar were divided into three seasons. Akhet (Inundation) covered July to October, Peret (Growth) spanned from November to February, and Shemu (Harvest) took place from March to June.
2. The intercalary days were five additional days added at the end of the Egyptian calendar to align it with the solar year. They were outside of any month and were associated with the birthdays of specific deities. These days were added to ensure that the calendar remained accurate with the solar year.
3. The annual rising of the star Sirius, known as the "Dog Star," signaled the start of the inundation season in the Egyptian calendar. It was a crucial event as it marked the flooding of the Nile River, which was essential for agriculture. The flooding deposited nutrient-rich silt, ensuring fertile land for planting crops.
4. The Egyptian calendar had a significant impact on agriculture, religious ceremonies, government and administration, and record-keeping. It played a central role in determining planting and harvesting times, scheduling religious festivals, collecting taxes, and organizing administrative tasks.
5. One lasting legacy of the ancient Egyptian calendar is its influence on the development of the Coptic calendar, which is still used by the Coptic Christian Church. The knowledge gained from the Egyptian calendar's astronomical observations also contributed to advancements in the field of astronomy.

