

Calendar

The Calendar System

Haab

Alonso Méndez: The Haab consist of a cycle of 365 days, 18 months of 20 days add to 360 days a 19th month, which is much shorter, consisting of 5 days was called the Wayeb and this month was at the very end of the cycle and consisted of celebrations, ceremonies that close one cycle and open a new one. Today, in contemporary Maya religious and cultural life the Haab is not used anymore but is melded together with the Catholic year and the Catholic cycle of celebrations and holidays. As so, the agricultural seasons of the Maya today are fused with that calendar and so because we are using a solar calendar in modern times ancient cycles that were predominantly based on agricultural cycles marry very well with the Catholic ceremonial cycle. And so today, we will see in the Maya world celebrations that have some relevance to Catholic traditions also expressing ancient Maya traditions.