Fun Facts about 7 Days of the Week and 12 Months of the Year.

**7 DAYS OF THE WEEK**

According to the history, each day of the week was assigned to one of the classical [planets](https://eslforums.com/space-words/) – the 7 celestial bodies visible to the naked eye. These are the Sun, the Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, and Saturn, which associated with Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

* Monday = means “the Moon’s day”
* Tuesday = means “Tiw’s day”, the god of war and law.
* Wednesday = means “Wodan’s day”, the Germanic god Wodan.
* Thursday = named after the Norse god of thunder, Thor.
* Friday = means “day of Frigg”, the Norse goddess of fertility and love.
* Saturday = named after the Roman god and planet Saturn.
* Sunday = associated with the Sun.

Would you believe January was not always the first [month](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) of the [year](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names)? The ancient Romans used a different [calendar](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) [system](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names), and their [year](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) began in March and ended in February!

Even though our modern [system](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) may be quite different from the ancient Romans', they gave us something very important: the months' names.

Let's take a look at how the ancient Romans chose the names of the 12 months of the [year](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names).

**March:**The ancient Romans insisted that all [wars](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/when-was-the-great-war%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)cease during the time of celebration between the old and [new years](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/why-do-people-make-new-year-s-resolutions%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). Since March was the first [month](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) of the new [year](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) in ancient Rome, some historians believe the Romans named March after [Mars](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-long-would-it-take-to-fly-to-mars%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), the Roman [god](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) of [war](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names).

**April:**Three theories exist regarding the origin of April's name. Some say April got its name from the Latin word meaning “second" since April was the second [month](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) on the ancient [calendar](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names). Others claim it comes from “aperire," a Latin word meaning “to [open](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names)," because it represents the opening of buds and flowers in [spring](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/what-is-the-vernal-equinox%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). Still others think April was named after the [goddess](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) Aphrodite.

**May:**May was named after Maia, an earth [goddess](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) of growing plants.

**June**: Apparently, June has always been a popular [month](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) for weddings! The Romans named June after Juno, the queen of the gods and [patroness](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) of [marriage](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) and weddings.

**July**: July was named after Julius Caesar in 44 B.C. Previously, July was called “Quintilis," which is Latin for “fifth."

**August:** August was named after Augustus Caesar in 8 B.C. Previously, August was called “Sextillia," which was Latin for “sixth."

Though we think of September, October, November, and December as months 9, 10, 11 and 12, these months were 7, 8, 9, and 10 on the ancient Roman [calendar](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names). This is how they got their names.

**September**: September's name comes from septem, Latin for “seven."

**October:**October's name comes from octo, Latin for “eight."

**November:**November's name comes from novem, Latin for “nine."

**December:**December's name come from decem, Latin for “ten."

February: Around 690 B.C., Numa Pompilius turned a period of celebration at the end of the [year](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) into a [month](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) of its own, named after the [festival](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) Februa. This is how February got its name.

January: Later, Pompilius added another [month](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) to the [beginning](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) of the [year](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) and named it January after Janus, the [God](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) of beginnings and endings.

In 1582, Pope Gregory adjusted the [calendar](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names), so most western nations began celebrating the start of the [year](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) on January 1. This new [calendar](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) became known as the "Gregorian [calendar](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names)."

However, England and the American colonies continued to celebrate the new [year](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) on the date of the spring [equinox](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names) in March. It was not until 1752 that the British and their colonies finally adopted the Gregorian [calendar](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names).