The Roman Calendar

Lunar Calendar:
- Early Civs based calendar on Lunar cycle.
- 13 months, 28 days each
- Lunar cycle is still used in some places:
- Lunar cycle does not follow Earth Cycle

Anni Romani
The Romans were not good at keeping track of years. They got better as time went on.
- Early: Only 10 months per year.
- The winter months (Jan and Feb) were not counted on the calendar as days.
- Numa Pompilius added January and February to the end of the year.
- March 1st was New Year Day.
- So month names were misnomers.
- They were off by two months: October was the 10th month and not 8th month.
- Year was still only 355 days.
- So occasionally, they added leap day to end of the year: Feb 29th
- Occasionally they added a leap month (intercalenary) containing as many days as they needed to get the year back on schedule.
- The Pontifices determined all this.
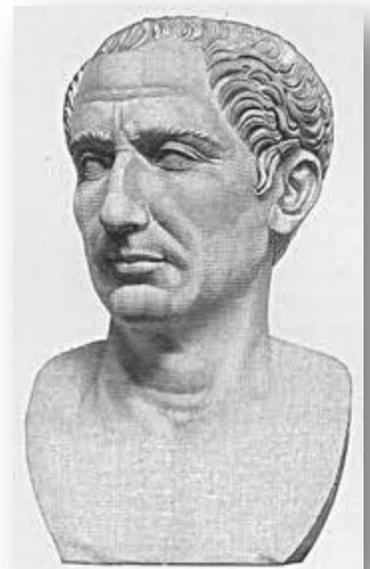
Annus Dating System
- The Romans did it two ways:
- According to the names of the two consuls. Consuls ruled for 1 year terms. (You may consult internet for entire list of consuls.)
- Years since the founding of Rome = Ab Urbe Conditu (AUC).
- Rome was founded in 753 bc by Romulus.

Iulius Caesar Reforms Calendar
- By IC's time the calendar was way off again. So he reformed the calendar.
- To set year correct: year 46 bc was 455 days long. "Last Year of Confusion"
- Starting in 45 bc, the year was designated as 365 ¼ days long. Days were added to months so = 365 days. (same as length now)
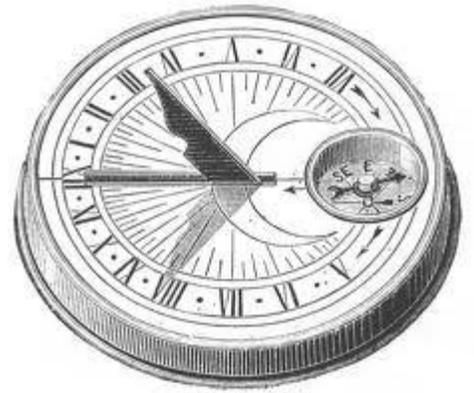- Leap day every 4th year.

FYI: Gregorian calendar:
- Despite Caesar's best effort, the year was off by 11 minutes a year, which adds up to 1 day every 134 years.
- So by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 the year was off by ten days.
- He reset the calendar and added new rules for when NOT to have leap days to keep the calendar in synch.

The Roman Dies
- The Roman dies began at sunrise.
- Daylight was divided into 12 horas (hours).
- Problem?: Summer hours were longer than Winter hours.
- (PGH on the Solstice: Summer 75 minute hour, Winter 46 minute hour.)
- Noon: 6th hour, Sunset: end of 12th hour.
- Meridies: the term for Noon: am pm

The Roman Nox
- Nox: harder to tell time at night.
- Most people stayed in and went to bed early.
- Nox divided into 4 vigils (watches)

Menses Romani   Menses Romani are difficult to follow.
- 3 main days:
- --Kalends → 1st day of the month used to be on the new moon.
- -- Ides →13th day of month   used to be on the full moon.
-              →15th day of Month in March, July, October and May
- -- Nones →9 days before the Ides   used to be the half moon.

Dies Calendae
- The days of the month were numbered.
- They counted DOWN until the K, N or I.
- Pridie = the day before the K, N, or I
- a.d. = Ante dies = days before
- Also days marked with letters A – H
- Each year a letter would be marked in RED and represented MARKET DAY
- Market Day was called Nundiae (9th day)

7 day week: Iulius Caesar again:
- Romans did not really have weeks like we do, but had market cycles: 8 or 9 days
- Iulius Caesar changed the market cycles to be 7 days or an octave.
- Each day was dedicated to the 7 main heavenly bodies.
- Sun, Moon and planets.
- 5 Planets: (day of Jove, day of Mars, day of Saturn, day of mercury, day of Venus) Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn
- Romance Languages still use these names.