

Instructions

Read the information below about the Zadok Priest Calendar from the Dead Sea Scrolls. Then, complete the activities and questions that follow.

Background Information

The Zadok Priest Calendar, found among the Dead Sea Scrolls, is a unique ancient calendar used by the Zadokite priests. This calendar differs from other calendars of the time because it divides the year into 364 days, grouping it into four seasons of three months each. The months are made up of 30 days, followed by an additional four intercalary days to bring the total to one year. This system was significant for religious observances, festivals, and agricultural practices.

Key Features of the Zadok Priest Calendar

- The year consists of 364 days.
- There are four seasons: Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter.
- Each season is composed of three months with 30 days each.
- Additional intercalary days ensure the calendar aligns with the solar year.

Activities

1. Draw a diagram illustrating the structure of the Zadok Priest Calendar, showing the months and how they fit into each season.
2. Write a short paragraph explaining why the Zadok Priest Calendar might have been developed. Consider its importance for religious rituals and agricultural activities.

Questions

1. How many days are there in each month in the Zadok Priest Calendar?
2. What is the total number of seasons in this calendar?
3. Why might a regular calendar with 364 days be useful for managing agricultural seasons?
4. Compare and contrast the Zadok Priest Calendar with the standard Gregorian calendar. List at least two differences.

Reflection

In a few sentences, reflect on how understanding ancient calendars like the Zadok Priest Calendar can enhance your knowledge of history and culture. Why do you think it's important to study ancient methods of timekeeping?