

The Story of Clocks and Calendars : Marking a Millennium

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January 1, 2001, will mark the beginning of a new thousand-year period on earth. But our earth is more than four billion years old, and humans have lived on our planet for perhaps two hundred thousand years. So how can it be the year 2000? The answer is that it is the year 2000 only on the Gregorian calendar. On the Hebrew calendar, the year will be 5760. On the Muslim calendar, the year will be 1420. And on the Chinese calendar, it will be 4698. So what year is it really? It all depends on what calendar you use and when you started counting the years.

Here is the fascinating story of timekeeping: how, over thousands of years, calendars and clocks came to be.

00-01 Young Reader's Choice Award Program Masterlist

Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies 2000, National Council for SS & Child. Book Council

Before beginning her career in children's books, Betsy Maestro was a teacher. Her first book with Giulio Maestro was *A Wise Monkey Tale* published in 1975, and since then they have collaborated on more than one hundred books. Their on-going "American Story" series began with the highly acclaimed *The Discovery of the Americas* and continues to help young readers understand and appreciate our nation's history.

The Maestros live with two cats and a goldfish in a converted cow barn in Old Lyme, Connecticut.

Grade 2-5-Maestro begins with a discussion of calendars: how, when, and where they originated; the different types; and how various countries, rulers, and religions influenced timekeeping. She then discusses the passage of time marked by sundials and hourglasses, provides a general description of early clocks and watches, and brings the subject up to the present with a mention of the atomic clock. The final pages address the question of when the millennium actually begins. Maestro's writing displays its usual objectiveness and clarity. Detailed illustrations of artifacts, including the earliest-known calendars carved into bone, and colorful background scenes done in pencil, colored pencils, ink, and watercolors enhance the descriptions and add immensely to the overall success of the book. The glossary and endnotes supply additional facts about expressions, the names of the days of the week, and computers and the year 2000. The only thing lacking from this otherwise all-inclusive book is a list for further reading. Be sure to purchase more than one copy of this timely volume.

Kit Vaughan, J. B. Watkins Elementary School, Midlothian, VA

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Other Books

The New Book of Knowledge. An illustrated encyclopedia with articles on history, literature, art and music, geography, mathematics, science, sports, and other topics. Some articles include activities, games, or experiments.

How Did We Find Out about Coal? Walker, 1980. ... (P; I) COLOMBIA Jacobsen, Peter O., and Kristensen, Preben S. *A Family in Colombia*. Bookwright, 1986. ... Sis, Peter. *Follow the Dream: The Story of Christopher Columbus*.