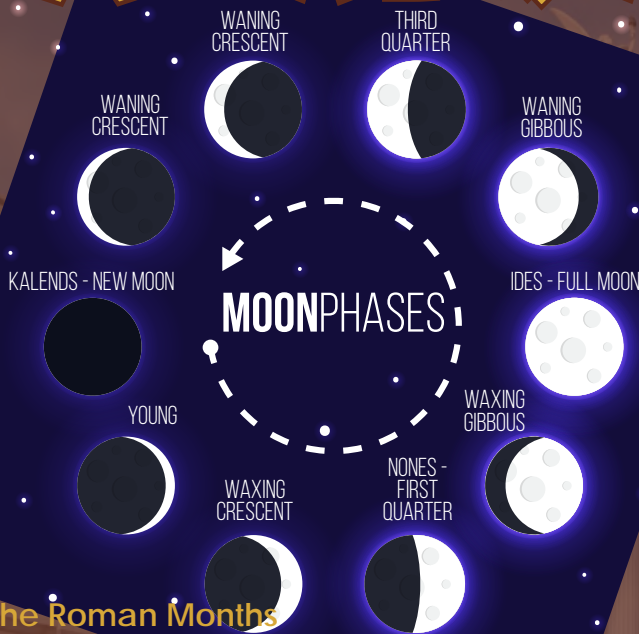


WHAT DAY IS IT?



The 'Kalends'

The Roman calendar was based on the phases of the moon. A pontifex (priest), assigned to watch the sky, would declare that the next month had begun when he saw the new moon. The first day of each month was referred to as the 'Kalends' which comes from the Latin word to announce or call out. What word, related to tracking time, comes from Kalends? _____

Kalends - Nones - Ides

There were three key days in the Roman month. The Kalends (first day of the month); the Nones, (day when the moon reached its first quarter); and the Ides, (day when the moon was full). When the priest announced the Kalends, he also announced how many days until the Nones. If the month was March (Martius), and he said 'six,' the next day would be referred to as 'ante diem VI Nones Martius' meaning 'six days before the Nones of March' this would be written as a.d. VI Non. Mart.

What famous event in Roman history took place on Id. Mart.? _____

The Roman Months

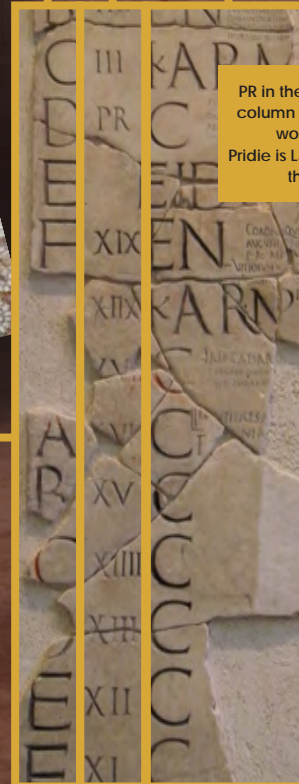
- 1 - Martius - Month of Mars
- 2 - Aprilis - Month of Aphrodite
- 3 - Maius - Month of Maia (mother of Hermes)
- 4 - Iunius - Month of Juno (Hera)
- 5 - Iulius - Julius Caesar's Month
- 6 - Augustus - Caesar Augustus's Month
- 7 - September - Seventh Month
- 8 - October - Eighth Month
- 9 - November - Ninth Month
- 10-December - Tenth Month
- 11-Januarius - Month of Janus
- 12-Februarius - Month of Februa (purification instruments)

Archeological Museum of Sousse © Ad Meskens/Wikimedia Commons



'A' is the end of one Nundinum AND the beginning of the next.

Countdown to next lunar phase.
Nundinum Days A-H
Kalends, Nones, Ides, Holidays, etc. (Ides written EID)



PR in the 'countdown' column stands for the word pridie. Pridie is Latin for 'before the day.'

Nundinum

The Romans didn't widely use the seven-day week we have today until near the end of the Empire. Instead, they followed a nine-day period called the Nundinum. It was based on the fact that every eight days markets would be set up in cities around the empire. They considered it a nine-day period because they included the market day at the beginning and the market day at the end of the Nundinum in the count of each Nundinum. Each market day was marked with an 'A.' Successive days were marked B,C,D,E,F,G,H.

Answers: Calendar, the death of Julius Caesar

WHAT DAY IS IT?

Find your birthday below and write it how the Romans would. For example, for Nov. 20, you would write a.d. VII Kal. Dec. (Seven days before the Kalends of December). If your birthday falls on the Kalends, Nones, or Ides you would just write Kal., Id., or Non., and the month.

MARTIUS			APRILIS			MAIUS			IUNIUS			IULIUS			AUGUSTUS		
1	A	KALENDS	1	H	KALENDS	1	F	KALENDS	1	E	KALENDS	1	C	KALENDS	1	B	KALENDS
2	B	VI	2	A	IV	2	G	VI	2	F	IV	2	D	VI	2	C	IV
3	C	V	3	B	III	3	H	V	3	G	III	3	E	V	3	D	III
4	D	IV	4	C	PR	4	A	IV	4	H	PR	4	F	IV	4	E	PR
5	E	III	5	D	NONES	5	B	III	5	A	NONES	5	G	III	5	F	NONES
6	F	PR	6	E	VIII	6	C	PR	6	B	VIII	6	H	PR	6	G	VIII
7	G	NONES	7	F	VII	7	D	NONES	7	C	VI	7	A	NONES	7	H	VI
8	H	VIII	8	G	VI	8	E	VIII	8	D	V	8	B	VIII	8	A	VI
9	A	VII	9	H	V	9	F	VI	9	E	V	9	C	VII	9	B	V
10	B	VI	10	A	IV	10	G	VI	10	F	IV	10	D	VI	10	C	IV
11	C	V	11	B	III	11	H	V	11	G	III	11	E	V	11	D	III
12	D	IV	12	C	PR	12	A	IV	12	H	PR	12	F	IV	12	E	PR
13	E	III	13	D	IDES	13	B	III	13	A	IDES	13	G	III	13	F	IDES
14	F	PR	14	E	XVIII	14	C	PR	14	B	XVIII	14	H	PR	14	G	XIX
15	G	IDES	15	F	XVII	15	D	IDES	15	C	XVII	15	A	IDES	15	H	XVIII
16	H	XVII	16	G	XVI	16	E	XVII	16	D	XVI	16	B	XVII	16	A	XVII
17	A	XVI	17	H	XV	17	F	XVI	17	E	XV	17	C	XVI	17	B	XVI
18	B	XV	18	A	XIV	18	G	XV	18	F	XIV	18	D	XV	18	C	XV
19	C	XIV	19	B	XIII	19	H	XIV	19	G	XIII	19	E	XIV	19	D	XIV
20	D	XIII	20	C	XII	20	A	XIII	20	H	XII	20	F	XIII	20	E	XIII
21	E	XII	21	D	XI	21	B	XII	21	A	XI	21	G	XII	21	F	XII
22	F	XI	22	E	X	22	C	XI	22	B	X	22	H	XI	22	G	XI
23	G	X	23	F	IX	23	D	X	23	C	IX	23	A	X	23	H	X
24	H	IX	24	G	VIII	24	E	IX	24	D	VIII	24	B	IX	24	A	IX
25	A	VIII	25	H	VII	25	F	VIII	25	E	VII	25	C	VIII	25	B	VIII
26	B	VII	26	A	VI	26	G	VII	26	F	VI	26	D	VII	26	C	VII
27	C	VI	27	B	V	27	H	VI	27	G	V	27	E	VI	27	D	VI
28	D	V	28	C	IV	28	A	V	28	H	IV	28	F	V	28	E	V
29	E	IV	29	D	III	29	B	IV	29	A	III	29	G	IV	29	F	IV
30	F	III	30	E	PR	30	C	III	30	B	PR	30	H	III	30	G	III
31	G	PR				31	D	PR				31	A	PR			PR
SEPTEMBER			OCTOBER			NOVEMBER			DECEMBER			IANUARIUS			FEBRUARIUS		
1	A	KALENDS	1	G	KALENDS	1	F	KALENDS	1	D	KALENDS	1	C	KALENDS	1	B	KALENDS
2	B	IV	2	H	VI	2	G	IV	2	E	IV	2	D	IV	2	C	IV
3	C	III	3	A	V	3	H	III	3	F	III	3	E	III	3	D	III
4	D	PR	4	B	IV	4	A	PR	4	G	PR	4	F	PR	4	E	PR
5	E	NONES	5	C	III	5	B	NONES	5	H	NONES	5	G	NONES	5	F	NONES
6	F	VIII	6	D	PR	6	C	VIII	6	A	VIII	6	H	VIII	6	G	VIII
7	G	VI	7	E	NONES	7	D	VI	7	B	VI	7	A	VI	7	H	VI
8	H	VI	8	F	VIII	8	E	VI	8	C	VI	8	B	VI	8	A	VI
9	A	V	9	G	VI	9	F	V	9	D	V	9	C	V	9	B	V
10	B	IV	10	H	VI	10	G	IV	10	E	IV	10	D	IV	10	C	IV
11	C	III	11	A	V	11	H	III	11	F	III	11	E	III	11	D	III
12	D	PR	12	B	IV	12	A	PR	12	G	PR	12	F	PR	12	E	PR
13	E	IDES	13	C	III	13	B	IDES	13	H	IDES	13	G	IDES	13	F	IDES
14	F	XVIII	14	D	PR	14	C	XVIII	14	A	XIX	14	H	XIX	14	G	XVII
15	G	XVII	15	E	IDES	15	D	XVII	15	B	XVIII	15	A	XVIII	15	H	XVI
16	H	XVI	16	F	XVII	16	E	XVI	16	C	XVII	16	B	XVII	16	A	XV
17	A	XV	17	G	XVI	17	F	XV	17	D	XVI	17	C	XVI	17	B	XIV
18	B	XIV	18	H	XV	18	G	XIV	18	E	XV	18	D	XV	18	C	XIII
19	C	XIII	19	A	XIV	19	H	XIII	19	F	XIV	19	E	XIV	19	D	XII
20	D	XII	20	B	XIII	20	A	XII	20	G	XIII	20	F	XIII	20	E	XI
21	E	XI	21	C	XII	21	B	XI	21	H	XII	21	G	XII	21	F	X
22	F	X	22	D	XI	22	C	X	22	A	XI	22	H	XI	22	G	IX
23	G	IX	23	E	X	23	D	IX	23	B	X	23	A	X	23	H	VIII
24	H	VIII	24	F	IX	24	E	VIII	24	C	IX	24	B	IX	24	A	VII
25	A	VII	25	G	VIII	25	F	VII	25	D	VIII	25	C	VIII	25	B	VI
26	B	VI	26	H	VII	26	G	VI	26	E	VII	26	D	VII	26	C	V
27	C	V	27	A	VI	27	H	V	27	F	VI	27	E	VI	27	D	IV
28	D	IV	28	B	V	28	A	IV	28	G	V	28	F	V	28	E	III
29	E	III	29	C	IV	29	B	III	29	H	IV	29	G	IV	29	F	PR
30	F	PR	30	D	III	30	C	PR	30	A	III	30	H	III			
			31	E	PR				31	B	PR			PR			

Special dates were marked in red on Roman calendars. You may notice that the Kalends, Nones, and Ides are marked in red on the calendar above. Other days like Roman festivals would also be shown in red. This may be the origin of the expression 'a red-letter day.'