





# AZTEC CALENDAR

The Aztec calendar consists of two calendars, one for a day count [tonalpohualli] and the other for a year count [xiuhpohualli]. The first was the religious calendar, telling the ancient people when to consult the God's and the second was for agricultural purposes in figuring out the best time to plant crops. Explore Eric's only round painting of the Aztec calendar in folk art style and learn about ancient Mayan history!

1. Tonatiuh, the Fifth Sun god's tongue is depicted as a sacrificial knife. It is believed creatures on the Earth are currently living in the Fifth sun era, an age of suffering continual hardship and testing by the gods. Any species that fails these tests, are doomed to perish by Earthquakes and return to the sun from where they came.
2. Tonatiuh clutches a heart in his jaguar claw.
3. The four squares that come next show the four previous creations that perished the Mayan's believed. Ocelotonatiuh (*Sun of Jaguar*). The first era was where the giants who were created by the gods lived but because they did not take care of the Earth, jaguars devoured them.
4. Ehecatonatiuh (*Sun of Wind*). The second era was destroyed by strong winds and the gods transformed humans into apes so that they could cling better and not be carried away by the hurricanes.
5. Quiauh-tonatiuh (*Sun of Fire Rain*). The third era is where everything was consumed by fire and lava. Man was transformed into birds, being saved from death.
6. Atonatium (*Sun of Water*). The fourth era tells how everything perished because of terrific storms and torrential rains that covered the Earth. The Gods changed man into fishes to save them.
7. This symbol represents wind.
8. If mankind climbs the ladder of redemption, which is represented in the names of the twenty days of the calendar, Tonatiuh will not consume them. This first picture is a Crocodile (*Nahuatl name: Cipactli*)
9. Wind (*Ehecatli*)
10. House (*Calli*)
11. Lizard (*Cuetzpallin*)
12. Serpent (*Coatl*)
13. Death (*Miquiztli*)
14. Deer (*Miquiztli*)
15. Rabbit (*Tochtli*)
16. Water (*Atl*)
17. Dog (*Itzcuintli*)
18. Monkey (*Ozomahtli*)
19. Grass (*Malinalli*)
20. Reed (*Acatl*)
21. Jaguar (*Ocelotl*)
22. Eagle (*Cuauhtli*)
23. Vulture (*Cozcacuauhtli*)
24. Movement (*Olin*)
25. Flint Knife (*Tecpatl*)
26. Rain (*Quiyahuitl*)
27. Flower (*Xochitl*)
28. Representing the rays of the Fifth Sun god.
29. Xiuhtecutli, God of the Night, is one of the chief Aztec Gods that represent time.
30. The other chief Aztec God of time, Tonatiuh, The Sun God.
31. The serpent's body shows 11 segments of a cycle.
32. Symbols of sacrificial blood burn in order to strengthening the serpent god.
33. Serpents Tail ends the cycles.
34. The Creation represented as a 13-Reed.
35. The Aztec Calendar was carved out of basalt -solidified lava- and is 12ft tall, 3 inches thick, and weighs 24 tons.
36. Discovered on December 17, 1790, lying face down in the main square of Mexico City, the calendar is now in the National Anthropology Museum of Mexico City.
37. The tonalpohualli calendar (*this one*) is known as the sacred calendar where it focuses on the sun Gods.
38. In Nahuatl, the Aztec Sun Stone is called - Teoihuicatlalpaluazti-Ollin Tonalmachiōtl - (*The Great and Venerable Mechanism of the Universe*)