Months of the Year LENGTH & ABBREVIATIONS

3 Simple Rules for Month Abbreviations

- **1.** Only months with five or more letters are abbreviated.
- **2.** For most months, use the first **three** letters of the month as the abbreviation.
- **3.** For September, use the first **four** letters as the abbreviation.

NUMBER ABBREVIATION	LENGTH
1 JAN UARY	31
2 FEBRUARY	28 29 days in Leap Years
3 MARCH	31
4 APRIL	30
5 MAY	31
6 JUNE	30
7 JULY	31
8 AUGUST	31
9 SEPT EMBER	30
10 OCT OBER	31
11 NOV EMBER	30
12 DEC EMBER	31

Remembering the Lengths of Each Month



With a Rhyme

Instead of memorizing the lengths of all twelve months, you might find it easier to memorize just the four months that have only 30 days. You'd then know automatically that all the other months—except for February—have 31 days.

Here are the first two lines of an old rhyme to help you remember the months that have only 30 days.

Thirty days hath **September**, **April**, **June** and **November**.

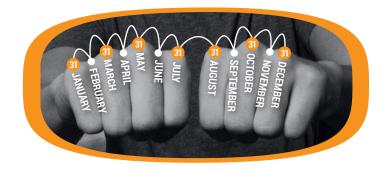


With Your Knuckles

Another way to remember the number of days in each month is by reciting the months of the year while counting your knuckles. Each mountain (the tall part of the knuckle) is 31 days, and each valley between the mountains is 30 days (except of course for February which is 28 or 29 days).

See the diagram below to see how it works. Notice that consecutive months July & August are right next to each other on mountain knuckles, so each would have 31 days.

On the diagram, the orange circles are on the mountain knuckles (31 days), and the white circles are on the valley knuckles (30 or fewer days).



Seasons of the Year

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

12 DECEMBER



WINTER **SOLSTICE**

1 JANUARY

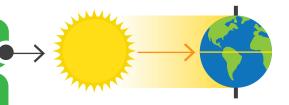
2 FEBRUARY

WINTER

3 MARCH



5 MAY



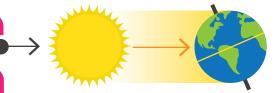
SPRING/VERNAL **EQUINOX**

SPRING

6 JUNE

7 JULY

8 AUGUST



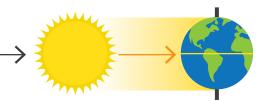
SUMMER SOLSTICE

SUMMER

SEPTEMBER



11 NOVEMBER



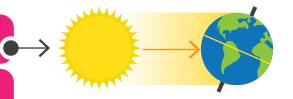
AUTUMNAL **EQUINOX**

FALL (AUTUMN)

Seasons of the Year

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

12 DECEMBER



SUMMER **SOLSTICE**

1 JANUARY

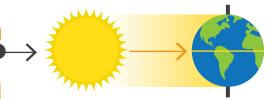
2 FEBRUARY

SUMMER

3 MARCH







AUTUMNAL **EQUINOX**

FALL (AUTUMN)

6 JUNE



8 AUGUST



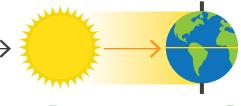
WINTER **SOLSTICE**

WINTER

9 SEPTEMBER



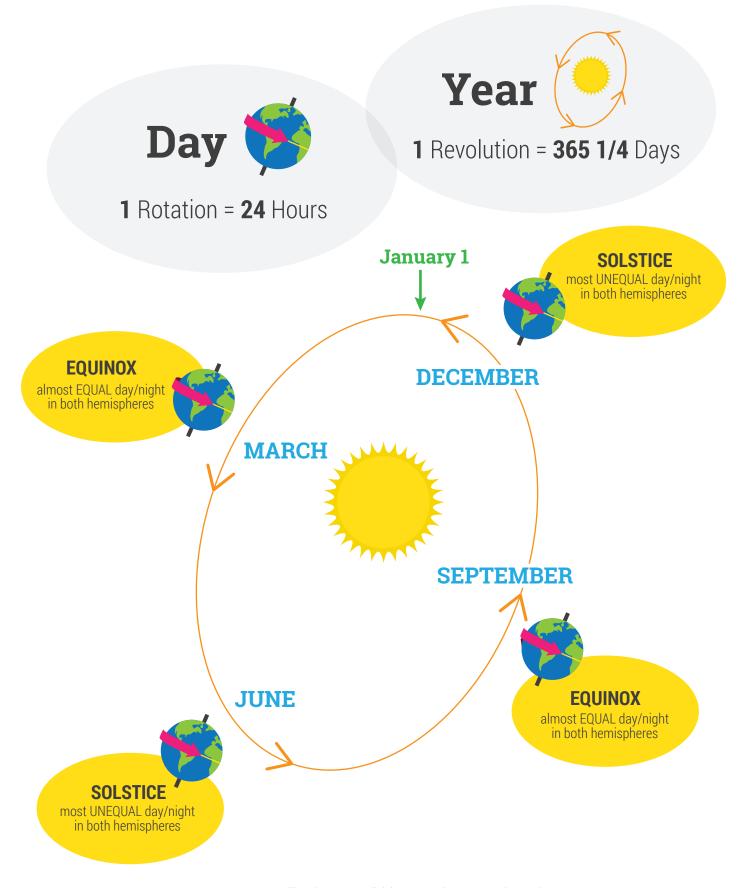
11 NOVEMBER



SPRING

SPRING/VERNAL **EQUINOX**

Days & Years



Why Leap Years?

In a normal calendar year, February has 28 days, and all the other months have either 30 or 31 days, for a total of 365 days. But every four years we have a Leap Year where February gets an extra day and is 29 days long instead of 28. Why do we do this?

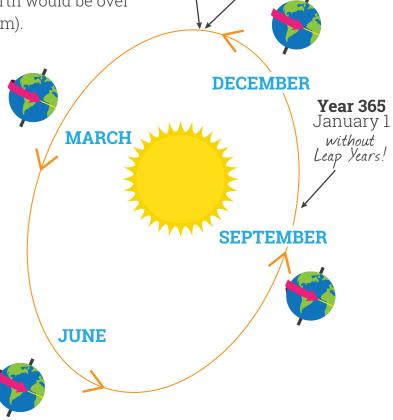
A Leap Year is our way of correcting the difference between our calendar year and the actual time it takes the Earth to travel around the sun. It would be convenient if it took exactly 365 rotations of the Earth (365 days) to complete one trip around the sun, but that is not the case. The Earth actually takes a little bit more than 365 revolutions (days) to travel completely around the sun—it takes 365 and 1/4 days.

That means that in a normal 365-day calendar year, on January 1 the Earth is at a particular point on its orbit around the sun, but by the time it makes it back to January 1 again, the Earth hasn't traveled back to its original starting point (see the diagram below). Since it takes 365 1/4 days for the Earth to travel around the sun, after just 365 days—our normal calendar year—the Earth is still 6 hours away from its original starting point.

So each year in which we count only 365 days, the Earth falls another 1/4 rotation—6 hours—behind its original starting point in orbit around the sun. If this were to go on for a long time—say for 365 years—the Earth would be over 90 days behind in its orbit (see the diagram).

That means months that used to occur in winter would now happen in the fall!

To prevent this problem of January 1 falling earlier and earlier in the seasons, every four years—every Leap Year—we add one day to our calendar year by giving February 29 days instead of 28. Since the Earth would have gotten a full day behind after just four years, this additional day in the calendar year gives Earth the extra full day it needs to travel the rest of the way around the sun and get back to the point in orbit where it started four years before.



Year 1

January 1

Year 2

January 1

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

print double-sided with previous page

3 6 12 10

winter

spring

summer

fall

single-sided

30 days

31
days

28
days (usually)

equinox

solstice

How to Use the Flashcards

The double-sided flashcards can be used for self-study. (The month is on one side and the number for that month is on the other.)

The cards can also be used for matching and sorting. Here are some suggested activities, but you don't have to limit yourself to just these:

- **1.** Scatter the month cards on the floor and have your child place the appropriate numbers on each month.
- 2. Sort the months into their seasons.
- **3.** Match up equinox/solstice with their corresponding seasons.
- **4.** Sort the months with the correct lengths.
- **5.** Practice putting all the months in order, or randomly draw just three or four months at a time and put them in order.

(1)	(2			3)
January-April	May-A	August	September-December	
APR 1	AUG	6	DEC	9
MAR 4	JULY	8	NOV	12
FEB 2	JUNE	7	OCT	10
JAN 4	MAY	5	SEPT	12
APR 3	AUG	8	DEC	11
JAN 1	MAY	6	SEPT	9
MAR 4	JULY	5	NOV	12
APR 2	AUG	8	DEC	8
FEB 1	JUNE	7	OCT	9
JAN 4	MAY	8	SEPT	12
MAR 3	JULY	6	NOV	11
JAN 4	MAY	5	SEPT	12
APR 2	AUG	8	DEC	10
FEB 1	JUNE	7	OCT	9
APR 4	AUG	6	DEC	12
MAR 3	JULY	5	NOV	11
JAN 2	MAY	8	SEPT	10
APR 1	AUG	5	DEC	9
FEB 4	JUNE	7	OCT	12
JAN 1	MAY	8	SEPT	9
APR 3	AUG	6	DEC	11
MAR 4	JULY	5	NOV	12
APR 2	AUG	7	DEC	10
FEB 1	JUNE	5	OCT	9
JAN 3	MAY	8	SEPT	11

	(4)		5)	(6	
	January-June	July-December		January-December	
JUNE	6	DEC	7	NOV	3
APR	4	OCT	8	MAY	6
MAR	2	AUG	11	FEB	10
FEB	3	DEC	8	OCT	2
APR	5	SEPT	10	APR	7
MAY	4	DEC	12	AUG	4
FEB	2	JULY	9	JUNE	11
JAN	3	AUG	11	MAR	3
JUNE	5	NOV	7	SEPT	5
APR	4	AUG	10	JAN	9
FEB	6	OCT	12	JULY	1
MAR	3	DEC	8	MAR	8
MAY	5	NOV	11	DEC	12
APR	4	SEPT	7	FEB	6
FEB	2	JULY	9	JUNE	4
MAR	6	OCT	12	NOV	3
JAN	1	DEC	10	JULY	9
APR	5	JULY	7	APR	11
JUNE	6	AUG	11	FEB	7
MAR	2	JULY	8	MAY	3
JAN	4	SEPT	12	OCT	2
APR	3	NOV	10	JUNE	5
FEB	1	DEC	7	SEPT	9
JUNE	5	JULY	9	DEC	10
JAN	3	OCT	11	JUNE	8

Month Length & Order Practice Directions: For #7, fill in the number of days for the month indicated.

For #8-10, fill in the month name that either precedes or follows the month given.

		8	9	(10)
NOV	DEC	JAN-JUNE	JULY-DEC	JAN-DEC
MAY	FEB	JUNE	DEC	FEB
FEB	JUNE	APR	SEPT	JUNE
OCT	NOV	MAR	AUG	SEPT
APR	JULY	MAR	OCT	APR
AUG	APR	JUN	SEPT	OCT
JUNE	FEB	JAN	OCT	MAR
MAR	MAY	APR	AUG	JULY
SEPT	OCT	APR	NOV	DEC
JAN	JUNE	MAR	AUG	SEPT
JULY	SEPT	JUNE	DEC	APR
MAR	DEC	JAN	OCT	OCT
DEC	JUNE	MAR	JULY	MAY
FEB	NOV	APR	SEPT	NOV
JUNE	MAY	MAR	AUG	AUG
NOV	FEB	JUNE	DEC	JUNE
JULY	OCT	APR	JULY	JAN
APR	APR	JUNE	DEC	NOV
FEB	AUG	APR	SEPT	FEB
MAY	JUNE	MAR	AUG	DEC
OCT	MAR		OCT	MAR
JUNE	SEPT	APR	SEPT	JULY
SEPT	JAN		OCT	AUG
DEC	JULY	FEB	JULY	JAN
JUNE	MAR	APR	NOV	MAY

	1)		2		3
Januai	y–April	May-	-August	Septembe	er–December
APR 4	1 JAN	AUG 8	6 JUNE	DEC12_	9 SEPT
MAR3	4 APR	JULY _7_	8 AUG	NOV11	12 DEC
FEB 2	2 FEB	JUNE 6	7 JULY	OCT 10	10 OCT
JAN1	4 APR	MAY	5 MAY	<u>SEPT 9</u>	12 DEC
APR	3 MAR	AUG 8	8 <u>AUG</u>	DEC 12	11 NOV
JAN1	1 JAN	MAY	6 JUNE	<u>SEPT 9</u>	9 SEPT
MAR3	4 APR	JULY7	5 MAY	NOV11	12 DEC
APR	2 FEB	AUG 8	8 <u>AUG</u>	DEC 12	8 AUG
FEB 2	1 JAN	JUNE 6	7 JULY	OCT 10	9 SEPT
JAN1	4 APR	MAY	8 AUG	<u>SEPT 9</u>	12 DEC
MAR3	3 MAR	JULY _7_	6 JUNE	NOV11	11 NOV
JAN1	4 APR	MAY	5 MAY	<u>SEPT 9</u>	12 DEC
APR	2 FEB	AUG 8	8 AUG	DEC 12	10 OCT
FEB 2	1 JAN	JUNE 6	7 JULY	OCT 10	9 SEPT
APR	4 APR	AUG 8	6 JUNE	DEC 12	12 DEC
MAR3	3 MAR	JULY7	5 MAY	NOV11	11 NOV
JAN1	2 FEB	MAY	8 AUG	SEPT _9_	10 OCT
APR	1 JAN	AUG 8	5 MAY	DEC 12	9 SEPT
FEB 2	4 APR	JUNE 6	7 JULY	OCT 10	12 DEC
JAN1	1 JAN	MAY _5_	8 AUG	<u>SEPT 9</u>	9 SEPT
APR	3 MAR	AUG 8	6 JUNE	DEC 12	11 NOV
MAR3	4 APR	JULY7	5 MAY	NOV11	12 DEC
APR 4	2 FEB	AUG 8	7 JULY	DEC 12	10 OCT
FEB 2	1 JAN	JUNE 6	5 MAY	OCT 10	9 SEPT
JAN1	3 MAR	MAY	8 AUG	SEPT 9	11 NOV

4	5	(6)
January-June	July-December	January-December
JUNE 6 JUNE	DEC 12 7 JULY	NOV 11 3 MAR
APR 4 APR	OCT 10 8 AUG	MAY 5 6 JUNE
MAR 3 2 FEB	AUG 8 11 NOV	FEB 2 10 OCT
FEB 2 3 MAR	DEC 12 8 AUG	OCT 10 2 FEB
APR <u>4</u> 5 <u>MAY</u>	SEPT 9 10 OCT	APR 4 7 JULY
MAY _ 5 4 _ APR	DEC 12 12 DEC	AUG 8 4 APR
FEB 2 2 FEB	JULY 7 9 SEPT	JUNE 6 11 NOV
JAN 1 3 MAR	AUG 8 11 NOV	MAR _ 3 _ 3 _ MAR
JUNE 6 5 MAY	NOV 11 7 JULY	SEPT 9 5 MAY
APR <u>4</u> 4 <u>APR</u>	AUG 8 10 OCT	JAN 1 9 SEPT
FEB 2 6 JUNE	OCT 10 12 DEC	JULY 7 1 JAN
MAR _ 3 _ 3 _ MAR	DEC 12 8 AUG	MAR 3 8 AUG
MAY _ 5 _ 5 _ MAY	NOV 11 11 NOV	DEC 12 12 DEC
APR <u>4</u> 4 <u>APR</u>	SEPT 9 7 JULY	FEB 2 6 JUNE
FEB 2 2 FEB	JULY 7 9 SEPT	JUNE 6 4 APR
MAR 3 6 JUNE	OCT 10 12 DEC	NOV 11 3 MAR
JAN 1 1 JAN	DEC 12 10 OCT	JULY 7 9 SEPT
APR <u>4</u> 5 <u>MAY</u>	JULY 7 7 JULY	APR 4 11 NOV
JUNE 6 JUNE	AUG 8 11 NOV	FEB 2 7 JULY
MAR 3 2 FEB	JULY 7 8 AUG	MAY <u>5</u> 3 <u>MAR</u>
JAN <u>1</u> 4 <u>APR</u>	SEPT 9 12 DEC	OCT 10 2 FEB
APR <u>4</u> 3 <u>MAR</u>	NOV 11 10 OCT	JUNE 6 5 MAY
FEB 2 1 JAN	DEC 12 7 JULY	SEPT 9 9 SEPT
JUNE 6 5 MAY	JULY 7 9 SEPT	DEC 12 10 OCT
JAN 1 3 MAR	OCT 10 11 NOV	JUNE 6 8 AUG

Month Length & Order Practice

Directions: For #7, fill in the number of days for the month indicated. For #8-10, fill in the month name that either precedes or follows the month given.

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7)

NOV	30	DEC	31
MAY	31	FEB	28
FEB	28	JUNE	30
OCT	_31	NOV	30
APR	30	JULY	31
AUG	_31	APR	30
JUNE	30	FEB	28
MAR	_31	MAY	31
SEPT	30	ОСТ	31
JAN	_31	JUNE	30
JULY	_31	SEPT	30
MAR	_31	DEC	31
DEC	_31	JUNE	30
FEB	28	NOV	30
JUNE	30	MAY	31
NOV	30	FEB	28
JULY	_31	ОСТ	31
APR	30	APR	30
FEB	28	AUG	31
MAY	_31	JUNE	30
OCT	_31	MAR	31
JUNE	30	SEPT	30
SEPT	30	JAN	31
DEC	_31	JULY	31

JUNE 30

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8	
JAN-JU	JNE
MAY	JUNE
APR M	4y
FEB	MAR
MAR AP	R
MAY	JUN
JAN FE	
MAR	
APR MA	
MAR_AP	
MAY	JUNE
JAN FET	
FEB	
APR MA	
FEB	MAR
MAY	
APR MA	
MAY	
APR MA	
FEB	

9
JULY-DEC
NOV DEC
SEPT OCT
JULY AUG
OCT NOV
AUG SEPT
OCT_NOV_
JULY AUG
NOV DEC
AUG SEPT
NOV DEC
OCT_NOV
JUNE JULY
SEPT OCT
JULY AUG
DEC JAN
JULY AUG
NOV DEC
SEPT OCT
JULY AUG
OCT_NOV_
AUG SEPT
OCT_NOV
JUNE JULY
NOV DEC

i giveii.
10
JAN-DEC
JAN FEB
MAY JUNE
SEPT OCT
APR MAY
SEPT OCT
FEB MAR
JULY AUG
DEC JAN
AUG SEPT
MAR APR
OCT_NOV
MAY JUNE
OCT NOV
JULY AUG
JUNE JULY
JAN FEB
NOV DEC
FEB MAR
NOV DEC
MAR APR

AUG SEPT

APR MAY

JAN FEB

MAR APR

MAY JUNE

APR_MAY

31

MAR