

ANCIENT GREECE

Discussion 6 : Why are calendars useful?

Objectives : To discuss why different calendars exist and why they might vary.

Materials: Last year and this year's calendar. Alternative calendars of festivals / events. Year planner.

Class set-up: Teacher presentation / whole group discussion / groups

Vocabulary: festival, anniversary

Discussion:

- What will affect how far you decide to travel?

Discuss the school timetable as an example of a calendar. Consider certain events e.g. sports day, and why it might change from year to year.

- Why might this event be on another day next year?
- Which events could not be moved to another day?

Look at the year calendar. How many festivals or special days can the pupils find? Divide them up into religious days and other days e.g. Easter, Queen's birthday. Compare these with previous year.

- Which days have changed and why?

Look at alternative calendars, e.g. Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Chinese. Find out when new year starts in each. Get a year planner and put it on the classroom wall. Add festivals and events of the calendars using different colours. Explain that many cities in ancient Greece had different calendars. How could this cause problems?

- Why are calendars useful?

Background information:

None available for this activity.