

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE  
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# THE KHAZARS– SCIENCE

## OVERVIEW

Calendars are the reference sources containing chronological data and information about holidays, historical events and other information. A duodecimal animal calendar was first used by the ancient Chinese and the Turks where days and months on the animal cycle were referred to by the corresponding ordinal numerals.

The duodecimal animal calendar was also used by the Khazars, with the names of the years being replaced by the animal names.

## SCIENCE

### Khazar Calendars

The 12-month calendar used by the Khazars divided the year into four equal parts, on the basis of the principle of balancing light and darkness. Ring-shaped bronze amulets are divided into four sections by the heads of the cyclical animals with their heads generally turned to the right, the direction of the apparent movement of the sun.

Circular bronze mirrors have been found depicting the animals of a twelve-year cycle arranged in a circle, one after another. It is believed that this arrangement symbolizes the infinite nature of time.

These calendars served not only as a reference source of chronology, but also carried astronomical and mathematical knowledge, folk signs, folklore, myths, etc.

### Discussion/Questions

1- How would a calendar of Chinese origin come to be used by the Khazars?

### Readings

1- Флерова В.Е. «Народный календарь Хазарии», Культуры степей Евразии второй половины I тысячелетия н.э.: Вопросы хронологии: тез. докл. II Международной археологической конференции 17-20 ноября 1997г., Самара, 1997. С. 48-51.

2-Davletshin, G.M., "The Calendar and the Time Account of the Turko-Tatars", Journal of Sustainable Development; Vol. 8, No. 5; 2015. [www.ccsenet.org/jsd](http://www.ccsenet.org/jsd)

3-Вагапова, Ф. Г., «Татарские Календари Как памятники художественной культуры», <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/tatarskie-kalendari-kak-pamyatniki-hudozhestvennoy-kultury>