Look at the Stars!

That’s what the ancient Hawaiians did – nā kāhuna were like university professors … this is what they studied:

- Kahuna kilo makani … navigated by the winds
- Kahuna kilo hōkū … studied astronomy (stars)
- Kahuna nānā aʻo … studied meteorology (clouds)
- Kahuna hoʻokele waʻa … navigated by the stars

These Kāhuna created the Hawaiian calendar by using the decimal system. Around the world people use the decimal system – they just didn’t call it that. But it’s popular because it’s so easy!

All you do is count on your 10 fingers! The decimal system is based on 10, and 10 x 10 which is 100, and 10 times that which is 1,000, and 10 x 1,000 which is 10,000, and 10 x plenty more which is 100,000,000,000 & so on!

Here’s how the Hawaiians used decimals – the Hawaiian year had 360 days (that’s 5 less than we do, 6 less in leap years). Their year was also divided into 12 months, or moons, called mahina. But each mahina had exactly 30 days. The mahina was supposed to begin on the first appearance of the new moon in the west. This day was named “hilo” because it means twist – you know, when the time twisted around again!

* * * * *

Does this mean Hawaiians long ago had shorter years?! Did they get older faster?!
How They Counted Time In Hawai‘i Nei

To piece out the 29½ days of the lunar month into 30 days – which fits the solar year – either the 1st day of “hilo” or the 30th day, called “muku” had to have been counted only once every other month.

Eh, brah – you evah t’ink of study da stars like da kāhuna?

In each month there were 4 “kapu” periods … ku, hua, kanaloa & kane. Each of these happened every 10 days, except the last, which came on the 27th or 28th day … and that’s how we know kāhuna used the decimal system! Because they counted days in 10 – they even gave it a name – the anahulu. (Now we count days in 7 & call it a week.) That’s also how we know the old Hawaiians kept correct time on their own calendars … by looking at stars for a long, long time!

Some really smart old Hawaiians back in Hawai‘i nei, eh?

LUNAR???

What’s that???

In French (of all languages!) la lune is the MOON, so LUNAR means … “having to do with the moon” in English, ya lunatic!

(And yes, lunatic means “crazy” because people go kind of crazy when the full moon is shining! They get all LUNAR-TIC!!)

SOLAR???

So what is SOLAR?

It just means “having to do with the SUN” … because the sun has got SOL!!!