

The information contained in the Dresden, Madrid, and Paris codices includes astronomical tables that were used for predicting solar and lunar eclipses, as well as the movements of the planets Venus and Mars. Tracking the celestial bodies was extremely important for the Maya, who were an agricultural people. Prophecies for particular days and periods of time were often based on celestial events.



A table tracking the movements of the planet Mars. Prophecies listed in the hieroglyphic texts above the pictures include both negative auguries such as “damage to the maize” and positive ones including “an abundance of food and drink.”