

We use ten digits in our number system, representing numbers from 0 to 9.

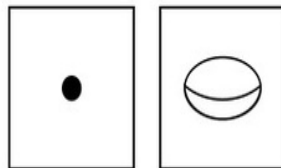
The Mayans Used twenty "digits" to represent numbers from 0 to 19.

The Mayan Number System:

A shell represents "zero," a dot represents "one," and a bar represents "five." So the digit for the number "seven" would include one bar plus two dots. A "sixteen would be represented by three bars plus one dot.

Place Value:

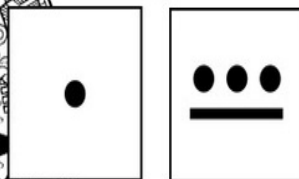
When we want to represent ten, we shift our digit for "one" into the "tens place." The Mayans used base twenty, so when they shifted their "one" dot to the right, it represented "twenty."



The "zero" shell was used as a placeholder (just as we do).

Here are some examples of the Mayan Number System:

28



36

