

**Museum
Leuven**




**BRING AN
ARTWORK
INTO YOUR
HOME!**



And what an artwork!

It has a gallery all to itself
at M Leuven.



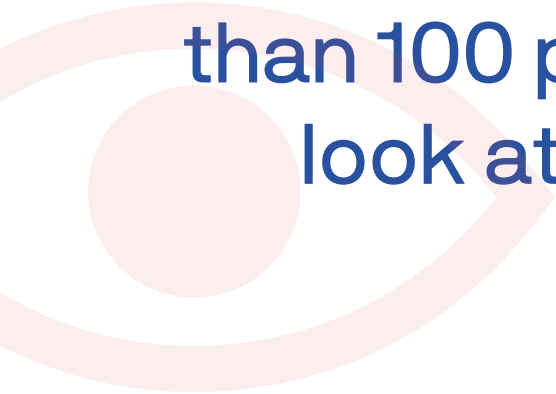


If you want to see it, you first have to walk up the large staircase, past the scores of sculptures and paintings, and at the end of a long hallway, in a remote corner of the museum, you find this extraordinary thing.

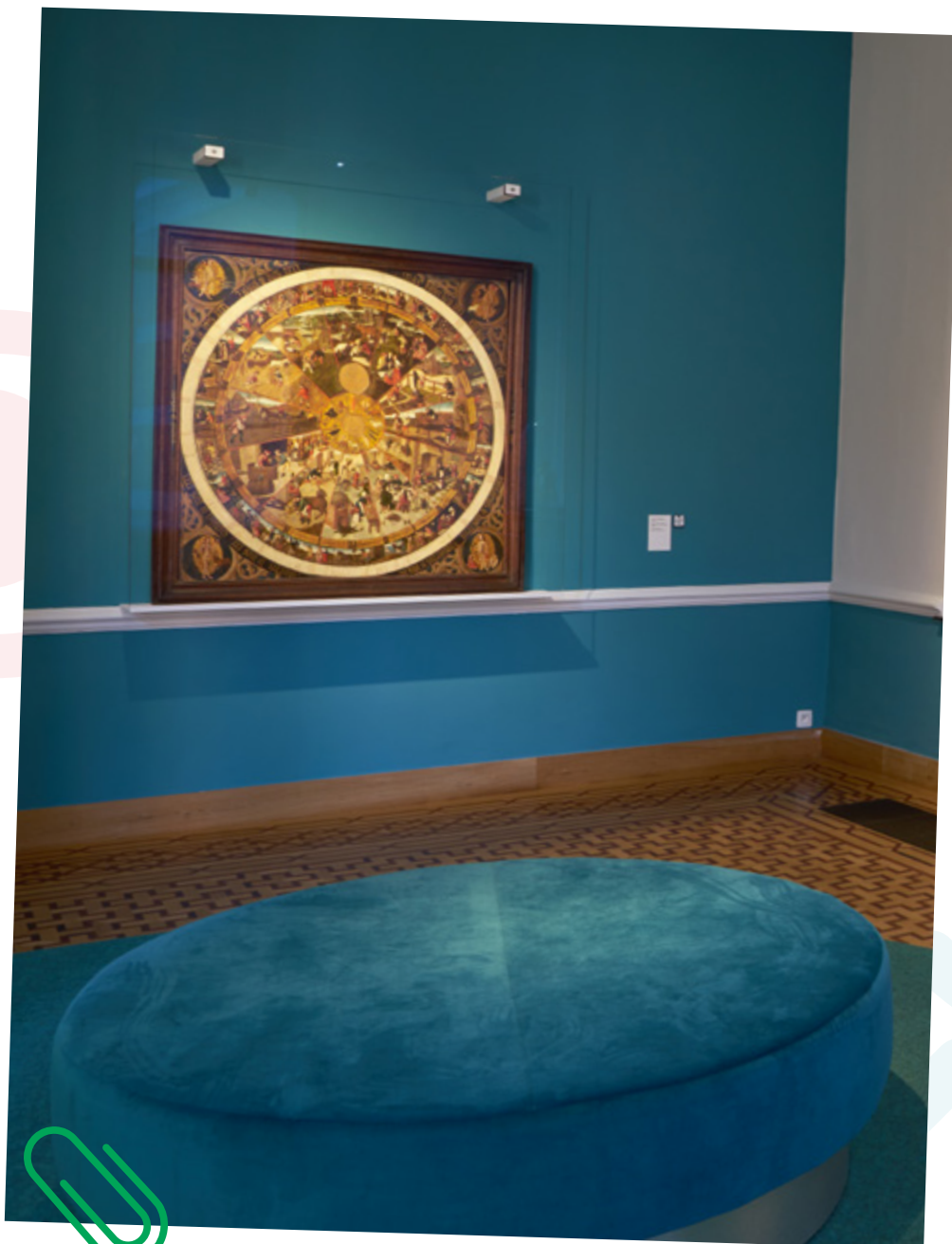
Why is it hanging there?



Can you see that the panel is made up of lots of small scenes or tableaux? They feature more than 100 people. It takes time to look at everyone properly.



Did you know that people spend longer looking at an artwork if they can sit down? That's why there's a gigantic seat for this one painting.



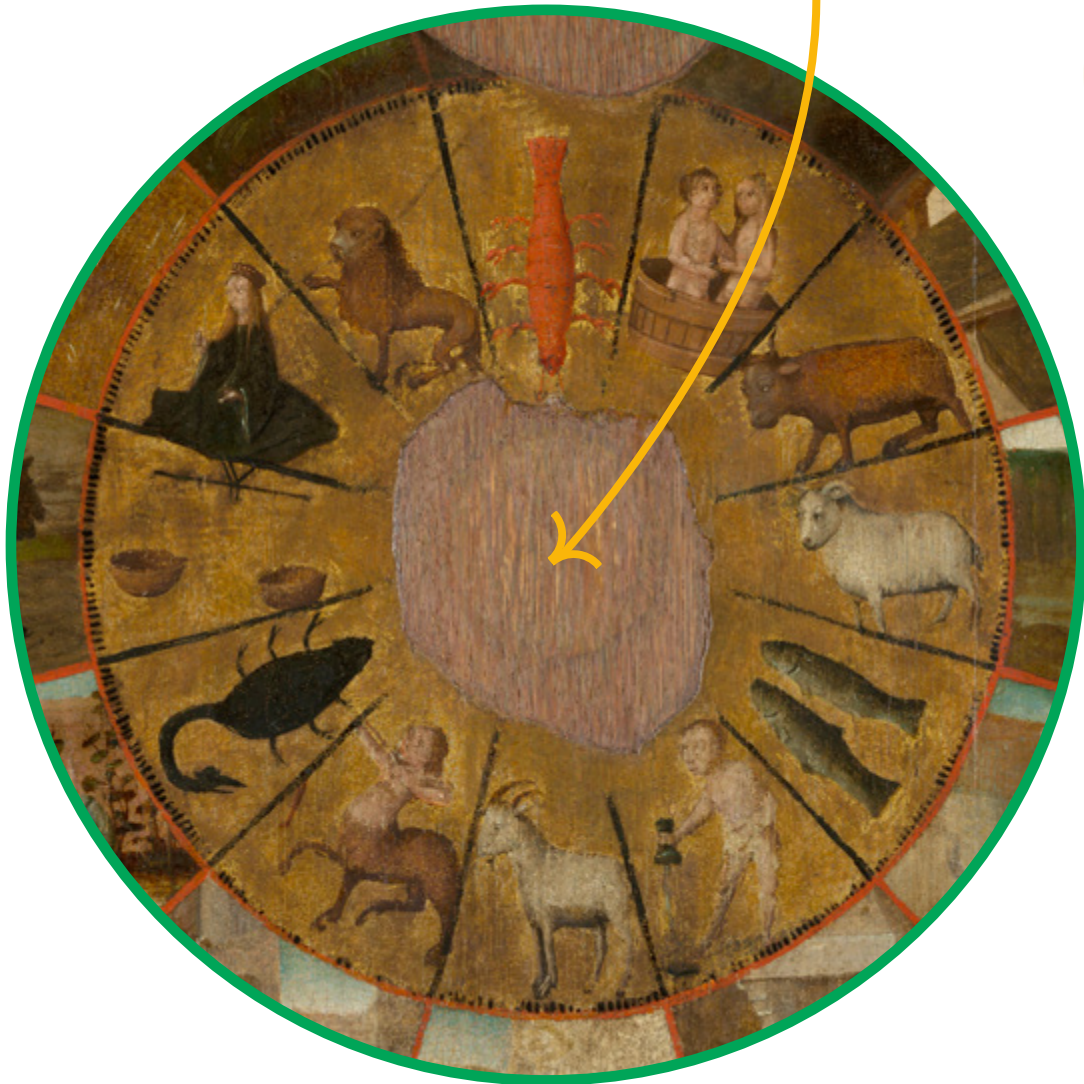
If you are thinking
“OK.... but it does look rather
strange and it is even slightly the
worse for wear,” then read on.

Because this is not any old
painting: it is also a clock and a
calendar, a to-do list for a whole
year, and it shows the planets too.
So it is called: **the Calendar Dial.**

Ta-da!



But sadly, the clock and the hands are missing.



Nobody knows where they are or what it looked like.



1. Mysterious masterpiece

The painting has a few secrets.
For example...

Why is there a second hole?

Some bright sparks believe there was a second clock to indicate the position of the moon. But we don't really know. What do you think?



*Psst... if you want to know what a masterpiece is:
read 'sheet 1' [Here it is!](#)*

1.

Who made it?

Long ago painters rarely put their name on a work of art. This artist may have given us a clue. Could that be his workplace? And is that the clock-maker?



1.

Whose wall did the calendar dial hang on?

The artist didn't make it for himself. Someone commissioned it. Who that was, we don't know. That person must have been very keen on hours, days, months and seasons and probably had a phobia about being late!

So what do we know?

When it was made.

This painting catapults us back to the Middle Ages. To around the year 1500 to be precise. We know this because the people in the painting are wearing clothes that were very trendy at that time. It is a fashion magazine from that period.

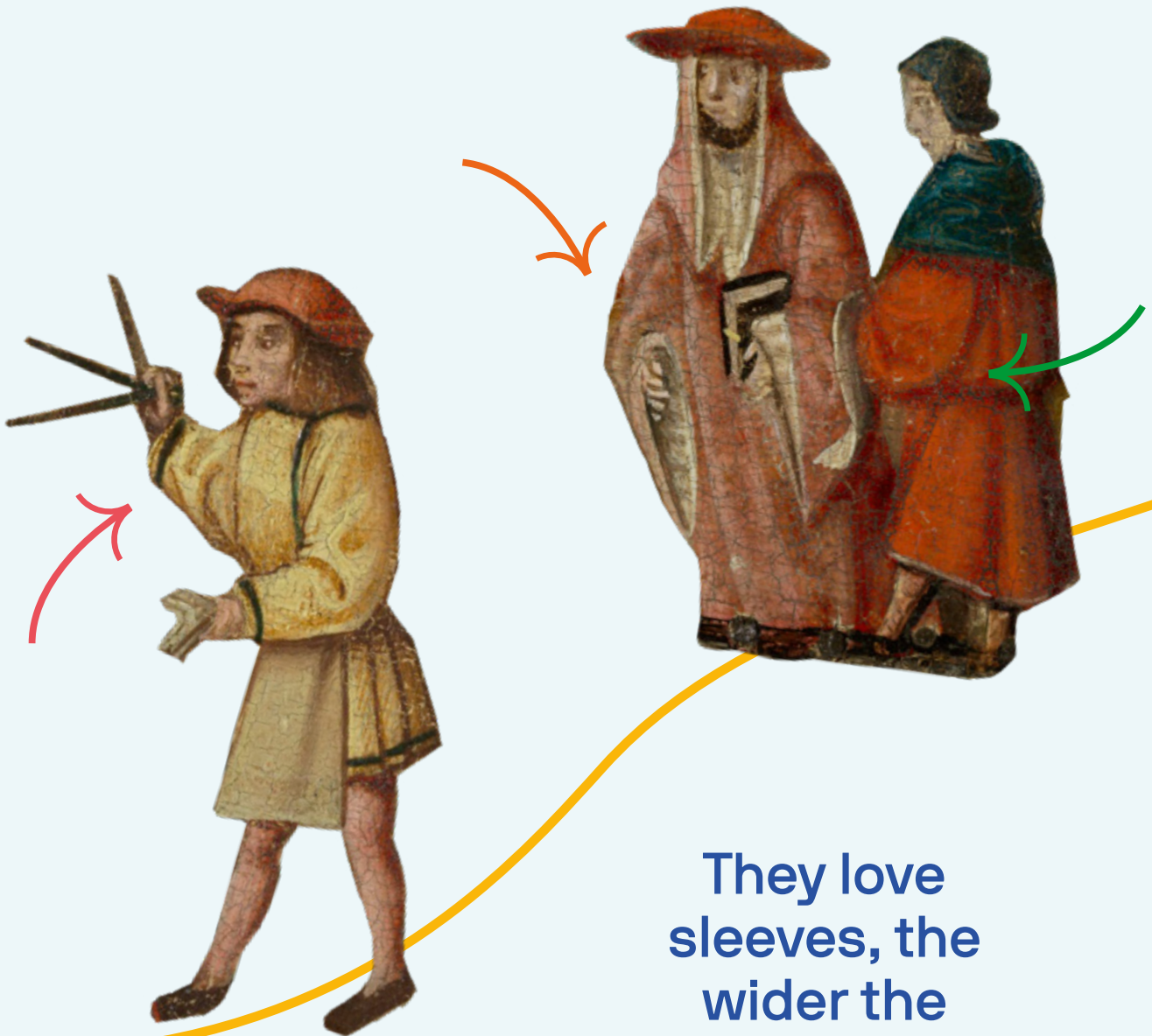


1.

Take a look!

Which outfit would you choose?

And why?



They love sleeves, the wider the sleeve, the better!



1.

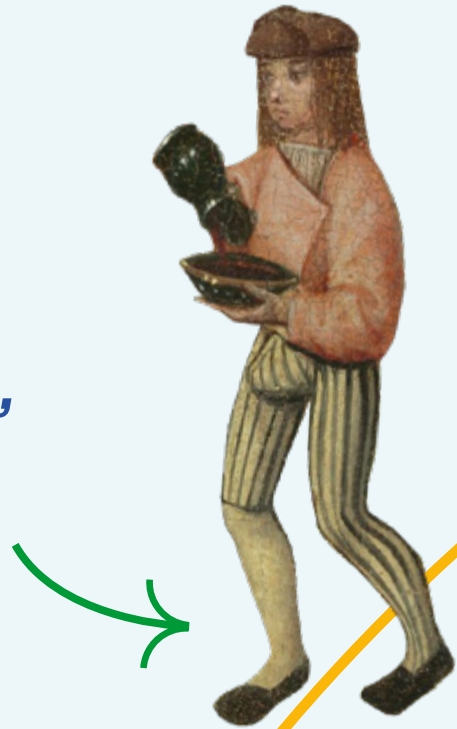
Women wore a cap rather than a hat. And they always wore long skirts, even in the summer.



The hat could be large and quirky!

1.

It was really cool to wear 'odd' stockings.



Men could wear close-fitting garments! They were more practical if you had to work hard.



1.

What the calendar dial was used for.

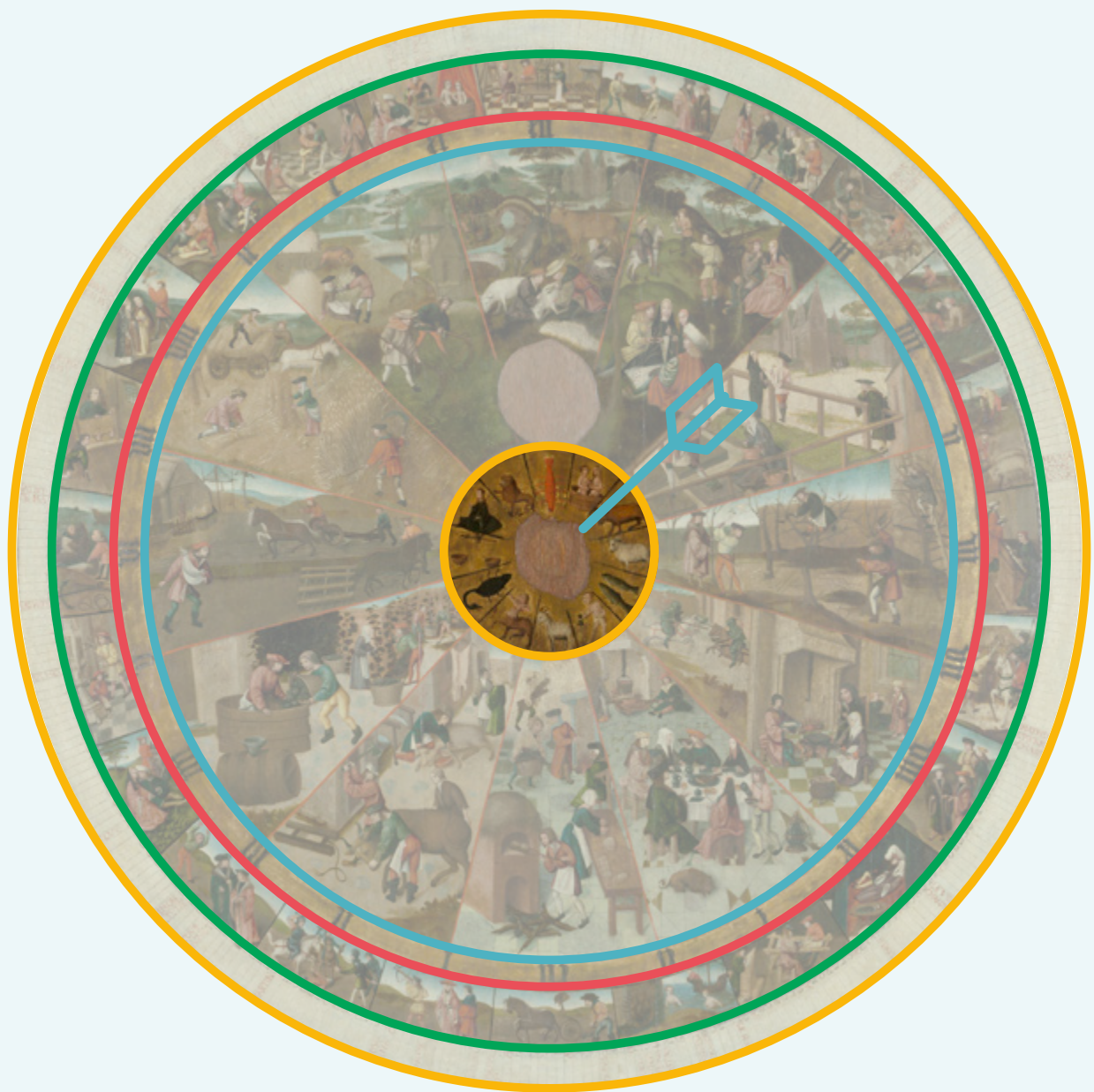
Each circle in the painting relates to TIME in some way. For people in the Middle Ages, time was marked by what was happening in nature. A cold, dark winter's day looked very different from a sunny summer's day.

This calendar dial shows us how people lived in the Middle Ages: what they did, what they ate and what they looked like.



2. The artwork from the inside out

Let's start our journey through the artwork in the middle.



2.

See how many things you can recognize.

Do these twelve figures ring a bell?



They are the signs of the zodiac. Your birth date determines your zodiac sign. If your birthday is January 1st, for example, then you are a Capricorn, which originates from the constellation of Capricornus, the horned goat. Capricorns are said to be very stubborn people.



2.

Some believe that your zodiac sign determines your character and your future.

To find out what the day has in store for you, read your horoscope and fill in the missing words!

Capricorn

(December 22nd – January 19th)

Breakfast, brunch, lunch, tea or dinner?

Today you have a particularly keen sense of taste. So it's the perfect day to roll up your sleeves in the kitchen and yourself and members of your household with your culinary skills.

Whether you make a ... or.... , it will never have tasted so good. But watch out for Taurus and Aries because they can throw a spanner in the works!



2.

Aquarius (January 20th – February 19th)

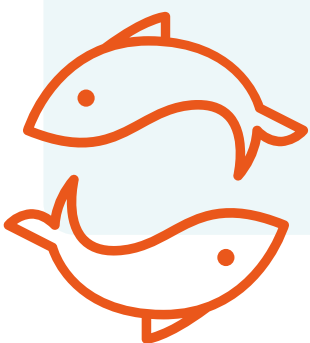
Love is written in the stars today and you have butterflies in your stomach. Arrange a surprise, such as a ... or ... A gift straight from the heart: it will make that special person....



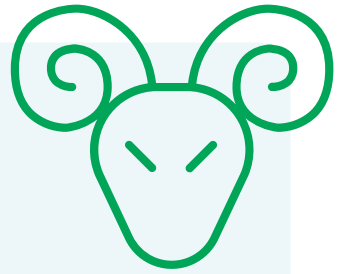
Pisces

(February 20th – March 20th)

The stars are aligned for you. Today will be a really lucky day. Seize the opportunity to do things you are less good at: play... or make... The other members of your household will be



2.



Aries (March 21st – April 19th)

Aries should be particularly careful today and nice to the members of their household. Accidents happen quickly and you would be well advised not to argue with Capricorns, Cancers, Leos, Scorpions or ... If you manage not to, the rest of the week you will be rewarded with...

Taurus (April 20th – May 20th)

Tauruses are real gourmets, but they are not usually partial to ... or ... Today is a good day to try something you don't normally like. Combine it with something you really do like to eat, such as... and today the stars will lend a hand.



2.

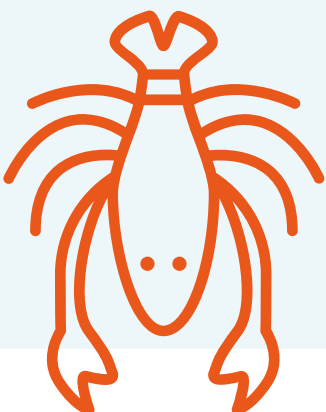
Gemini (May 21st – June 20th)

Geminis will miss their best friend more than ever today. Geminis are said to have a dual nature, as symbolized by twins, so they don't find being alone easy. Make sure that other person has a ... day by ... or



Cancer (June 21st – July 22nd)

Tonight the moon and the stars will shine particularly brightly for you and whisk you off to dreamland in no time. Be sure to do something relaxing such as... before you go to sleep. It will be the perfect night to dream of....



2.



Leo (July 23rd – August 22nd)

Leos love games and always win at... Today luck is on your side: an ideal day to play... and to win. But watch out if you are up against a Libra, Virgo, Pisces or Aquarius!

Virgo (August 23rd – September 22nd)

Today you deserve a little rest after all that hard work. The perfect day to... or.... The other members of your household will enjoy spoiling you by... or..... But don't forget to say thank you, otherwise you can expect a spell of bad luck in the next few days.



2.



Libra

(September 23rd – October 22nd)

Libras would do well to put their best foot forward today. The stars are ideally aligned to break the house record to be the first to ... or to ... the most.... Today you will succeed wonderfully well, but watch out for Leos, Cancers and Tauruses! They could sabotage your plans!

Scorpion (October 23rd – November 21st)

Scorpions are often messy but they are very good at... It is the perfect day to instil some order in the chaos. You will be rewarded by finding... and after all that hard work, you would be well advised to...

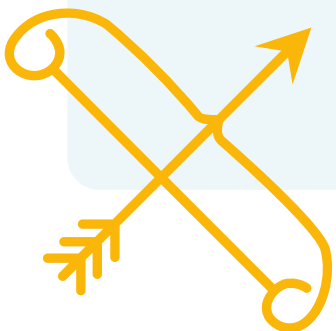


2.

Sagittarius

(November 22nd – December 21st)

A Sagittarius' symbol is the Archer and he always hits his target! Today he is training his sights on you. Everything you do today will be a great success. Do... or go... But watch out for Libras, Pisces, Leos and.... because they can be obstructive.



2.

Also curious to know what tomorrow will bring? Imagine what will happen in your life over the next few days.

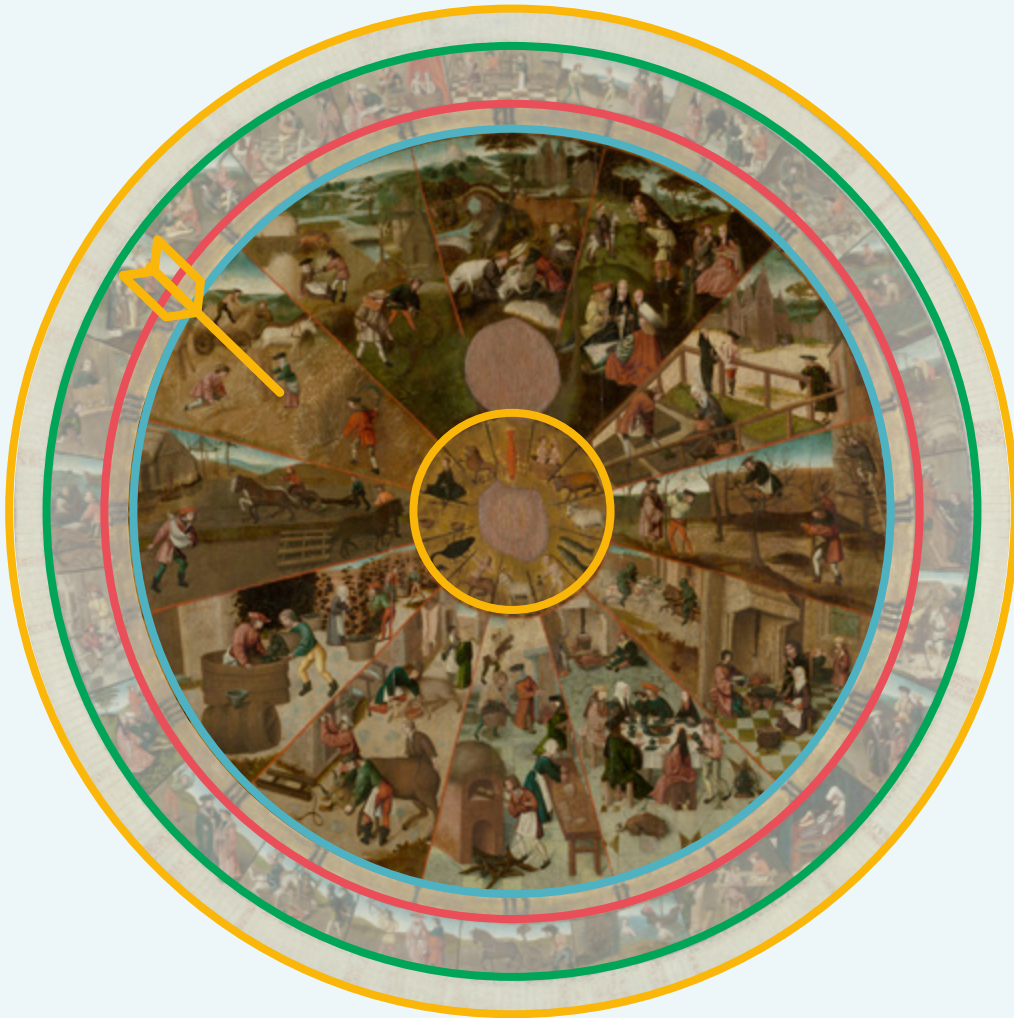
Write or draw a personal horoscope for each member of your household and present it to them at breakfast time.

Do you need inspiration? Then trickle some coffee or dark tea onto a white sheet of paper and see if you can identify a symbol or message in the stain. What can you see? Is it good news or bad?

You can also make wonderful drawings with coffee stains. **Take a look!**



2.



The painter used the largest circle to show **the months** of the year. Something different is planned for each month. Usually lots of work, but also the occasional celebration!



2. SPRING

March

Five men in an orchard.

Four of them are carrying out dangerous tasks in the highest branches of the trees. There is a lot of pruning to be done in early spring. The man looking on is the landowner.

April

It's still early spring.

Growing fruit and vegetables is a lot of work. In the fenced-off garden you can see a man turning over the soil and a woman tending the plants. The owner of the vegetable garden is leaning against the fence and keeping an eye on things.



2.



May

In the month of May all birds lay ...

May is the month of love. We see men and women sitting on the grass.

They seem to be enjoying a picnic.

Could they be in love? They are keeping a watchful eye on the hunters behind them.



What do you do in spring? Write it here.

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2. SUMMER

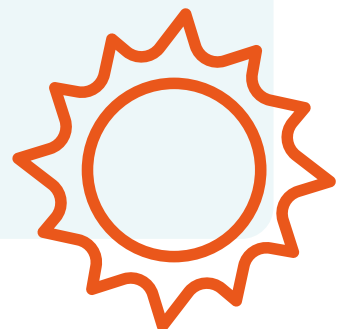
June

Time to bring in a few animals. This month the sheep are sheared so that their wool can be turned into warm clothes. And the cows are milked to provide a nourishing drink.

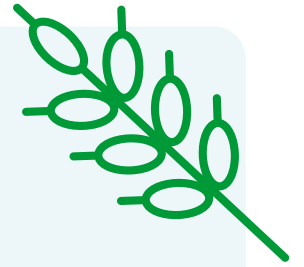


July

This month people work hard under the sweltering sun. The hay (dried grass) is cut with a scythe and collected. It is fed to animals in winter and it is also used as bedding to keep them warm.



2.



August

There is no time for a summer holiday for August is the month to harvest the grain crops. No grain, no bread! So it's really important. The crop is collected up, bound into sheaves and placed upright. Two peasants load the sheaves onto a cart.

What do you do in summer? Write it here.

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2. AUTUMN

September

Time to sow!

The two peasants

have to get all the seeds in the ground so there is no time to lose. That funny thing attached to the horse is a harrow. It breaks up the soil ready for sowing and after sowing it is used to cover the seed.



October

Time to drink! Men and women are busy collecting grapes in large baskets. All those grapes are then trampled on in a large vessel to crush them. The juice flows into the large cask in the foreground. Does the wine taste of feet, do you think?





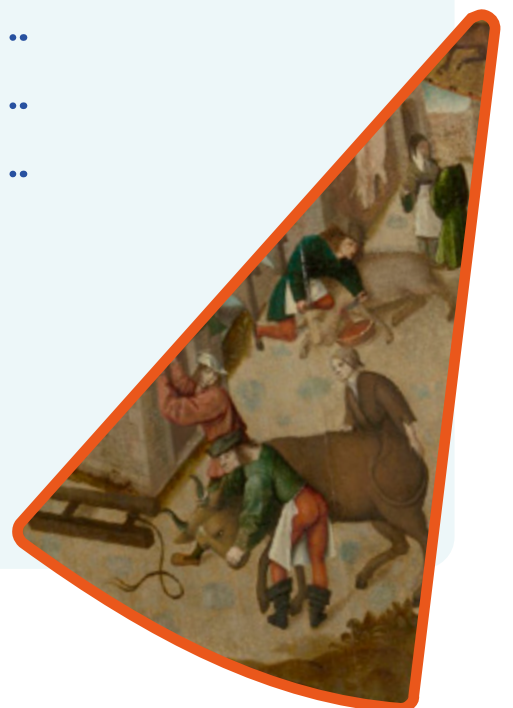
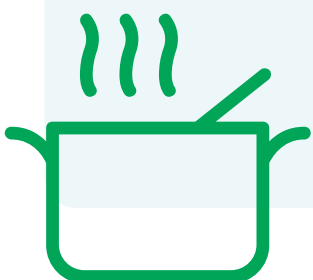
2.

November

Time to eat! You need enough meat to take you through the winter. The fat ox and the plump pig are slaughtered. The animal skins are turned into leather and every part of the meat is eaten, including the ears, nose and snout... even the brains.

What do you do in autumn? Write it here.

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2. WINTER

December

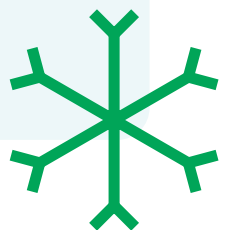
Time to bake bread!

The dough is kneaded and placed in the oven. It's cold outside, so several men are warming themselves by the fire in the hearth.



January

Like us, people in the Middle Ages celebrated the new year. Three men and three women are seated at the table eating their fill. A chicken is roasted on a spit over the open fire and on the floor on the right is a large wine cooler filled with 'bare feet wine'. Even the dog is joining in the celebrations with a bone.



2.

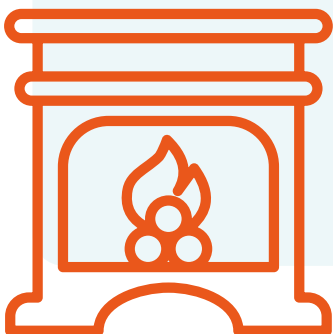
February

It is still cold outside. People are warming themselves at the fire in the hearth while a woman is making waffles. She is holding a waffle iron over the fire, a cauldron full of dough at her feet. In the background a man and a child are tucking into the freshly-made waffles.

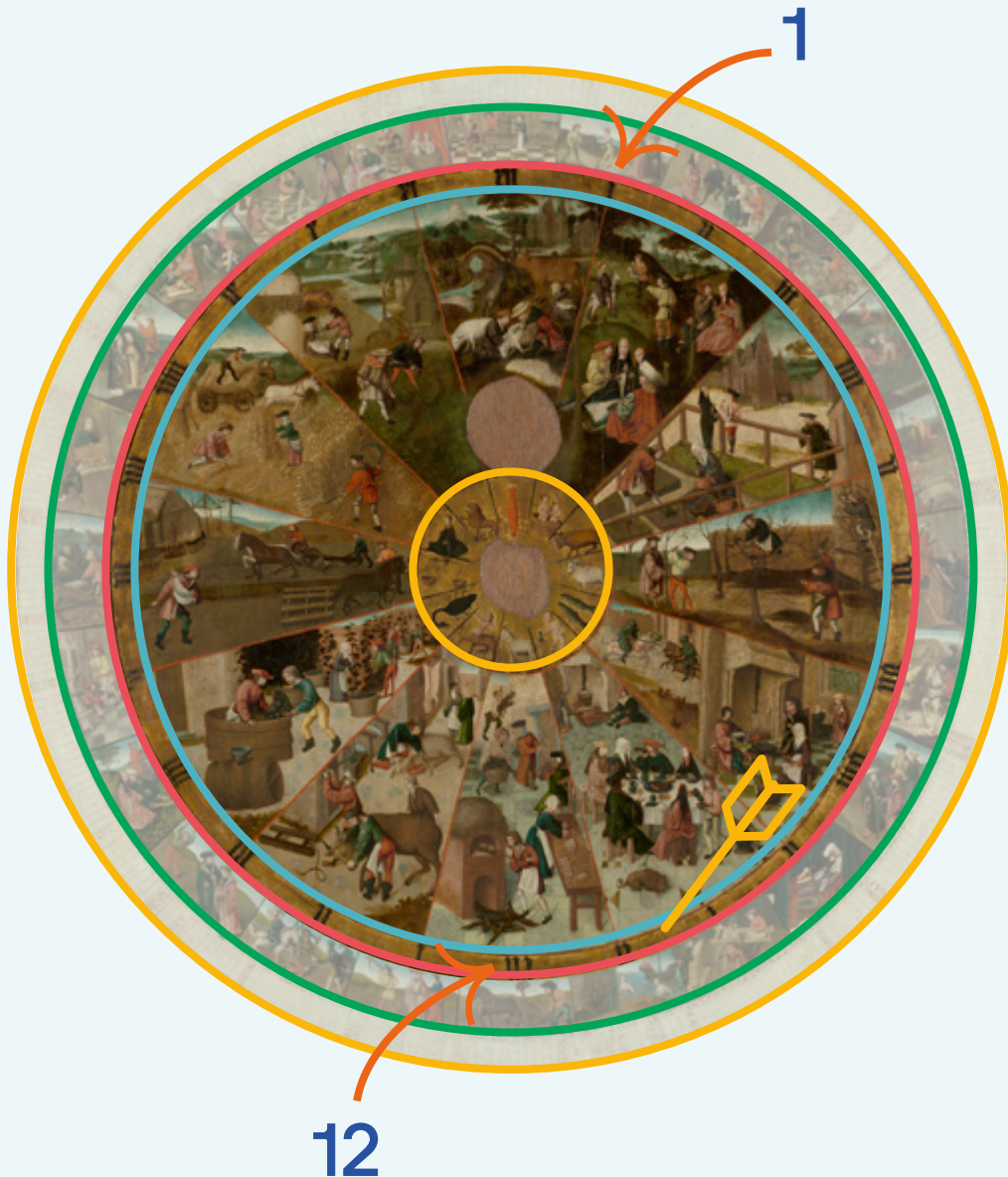


What do you do in winter? Write it here.

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2.



You also needed numbers to be able to read this calendar dial. Here the artist painted **the hours** of the day in Roman numerals. Can you read the numbers? He painted 24 of them: one for each hour of the day and night.

2.



A clue! I = 1 V = 5 X = 10

Do you often look at the clock? Do you have any idea how many clocks there are in your house? Have you ever counted them? Do you find that time goes more quickly or more slowly when you are at home? And what happens with time when you are bored?

Not many people had a clock at home in the Middle Ages, but they may have had **a sandglass**. And it's not difficult to make one yourself. Give it a try!

2.

What do you need?

- *two plastic bottles*
- *a piece of cardboard*
- *sand or something you can crush finely, like eggshells*
- *tape*

How do you make one?

- *Cut a circle out of the cardboard so that it fits exactly between the openings of the bottles.*
- *Make a little hole in the piece of cardboard (the larger it is, the faster the sand will flow through it!).*



2.

- *Put some sand (or whatever you are using) in one of the two bottles.*
- *Place the piece of cardboard on top and the second bottle upside down on top of the first.*
- *Secure the middle with tape.*
- *Test your sandglass by turning it over.*
- *Use a chronometer to find out how long it takes before all the sand is in the other bottle.*
- *Choose what you are going to time with the sandglass. For example, you could time cleaning your teeth, doing your homework, telling a story or playing a game.*



2.



This might surprise you, but these scenes relate to **the planets**. Just as your birthday has an influence on who you are, in the Middle Ages people believed that planets did too.



2.

Here you see the 'planet children'. They are people, professions and activities that illustrate the magic of a planet. Take a look!

This couple is lucky! With a little help from the planet Venus, they found love. They look as if they are about to kiss...



People in the Middle Ages were aware of seven planets: Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Venus, Mercury, the sun and the moon. The artist painted four of them in the corners of the painting. Not as planets: he made people of them.

2.

According to the artist, this is what that romantic planet Venus looked like. A naked young woman holding a mirror and a bunch of flowers.



Are you thinking: “*The sun and the moon aren’t planets*”? If so, you are absolutely right. But they didn’t know that in the Middle Ages. People believed that the earth was the centre of the universe and that the sun, the moon and all the planets revolved around the earth.

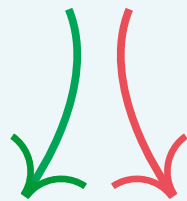




2.

Now we know that only the moon orbits around us and that it takes a **MONTH** for it to do that. In the Middle Ages they knew how important the moon is for the earth. The moon is our closest neighbour and a good friend. Without the moon there would be no ebb and flow.

Do you ever go swimming, sailing or have a bath? Then you need some help from the moon, or so people believed in the Middle Ages.



2.

We can hardly go anywhere at the moment. Apart from to the moon. You can do that simply by looking outside when it's dark. Did you know that everyone in the world, no matter where they live, can see the moon? Have you ever seen a full moon? Or an eclipse of the moon?

Artists also ponder the moon. What would you hear, see or feel on that large, distant satellite?



2.



Beethoven wrote a piece of music about the moonlight. This is what the moon would sound like if we could hear it. Curious to find out? Then type **Moonlight Sonata** into a search engine and listen.

TIP

Look for the moon this evening while listening to this piece of music.



2.



In the last circle the artist painted a calendar. 365 days to be precise. You can recognize the Sunday by a red A and the feast days are in red.



3. We are writing history

An artwork is a way of time travelling: it tells us something about what life was like in a different period.

You may not know it yet, but what you are experiencing at the moment and what is happening in the world will go down in the history books. Brainiacs will give it a lot of thought and write clever things about it.

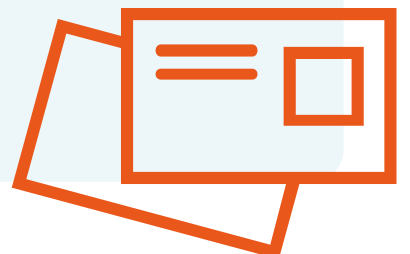
Would you like to give people in the future a helping hand?



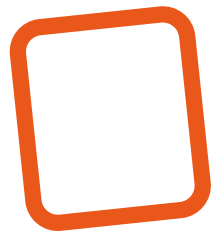
3.

Then make a time capsule that illustrates what this period was like for you and your family. It can be anything: a letter, a drawing, photographs, newspaper cuttings, recipes...

Seal it and hide it in a place where it will be safe for a long time. You can write on it **WHEN** the capsule can be opened and by **WHOM**.



greetings
from M!



Colophon

Text and concept: M Leuven

Design: Helena Vereycken

Visuals: Calendar dial: Anonymous (Southern Netherlands)

Calendar Dial, 125.6 x 123.4 cm, oil on wood, around 1500.

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Dominique Provost

Gallery shot M Leuven: Dirk Pauwels

Icons: *Eye Icons* by Vicons Design, *Closed eyes* by Alina Oleynik, *Paperclip* by Bruno Bosse, *brush* by ibrandify, *Night* by Bartama Graphic, *Portrait* by Ben Davis, *Fashion icon* by Philipp Petzka, *Search* by Richard Schumann, *foot prints* by Icongeek26, *explore* by Jugalbandi, *constellation* by Pham Duy Phuong Hung, *Horoscope icons* by JohnnyZi, *Coffee* by Andrejs Kirma, *Calendar* by iconsmind.com, *plants* by iconesia, *give love* by Christian Wad, *Bird* by Iconic, *Pen* by designer expert, *Pencil* by Vectors Point from the Noun Project, *sun* by Bartama Graphic, *Grain* by rivercon, *leaf* by Vectorstall, *cooking* by Vectors Market, *fork* by Najaya Design, *Winter* by Landan Lloyd, *fireplace* by Vectors Point, *hourglass* by Aya Sofya, *clock* by AliWijaya, *Scissors* by Maxim Kulikov, *Planet* by Nook Fulloption, *Earth* by IYKON, *Full Moon* by Alex Furgiuele, *Music* by DinosoftLab, *Book* by Vectors Point, *Jar* by Deemak Daksina, *twin letters* by Elisa Willy from the Noun Project