

The Sexagenary Cycle

1 甲子	2 乙丑	3 丙寅	4 丁卯	5 戊辰	6 己巳	7 庚午	8 辛未	9 壬申	10 癸酉
11 甲戌	12 乙亥	13 丙子	14 丁丑	15 戊寅	16 己卯	17 庚辰	18 辛巳	19 壬午	20 癸未
21 甲申	22 乙酉	23 丙戌	24 丁亥	25 戊子	26 己丑	27 庚寅	28 辛卯	29 壬辰	30 癸巳
31 甲午	32 乙未	33 丙申	34 丁酉	35 戊戌	36 己亥	37 庚子	38 辛丑	39 壬寅	40 癸卯
41 甲辰	42 乙巳	43 丙午	44 丁未	45 戊申	46 己酉	47 庚戌	48 辛亥	49 壬子	50 癸丑
51 甲寅	52 乙卯	53 丙辰	54 丁巳	55 戊午	56 己未	57 庚申	58 辛酉	59 壬戌	60 癸亥

How to figure dates:

己酉 Stem and branch.

6 10 Stem and branch sequence numbers.

+36 Appropriate multiple of 12.

46 The sequence number of the binary (the 6 of 46 matches the stem number 6).

Figuring a specific date: 清乾隆三十四年己丑五月丙申

己丑 Stem and branch.

6 2 Stem and branch sequence numbers.

+24 Appropriate multiple of 12.

26 Binary sequence number.

+1923 The 'zero year' of the previous year cycle.

1949 The 26th year of the previous year cycle.

-- 180 Move back in multiples of 60.

1769 The equivalent year in the western calendar.

-- 1735 'Zero year' of reign period (1736 – 1 = 1735).

34 The 34th year of the Qianlong reign period.

Figuring day in the day cycle (from example above):

丙申 Stem and branch.

3 9 Stem and branch sequence numbers.

+24 Appropriate multiple of 12.

33 Binary sequence number.

The date is: the 33rd day of the day cycle during the 5th lunar month, of the 26th year of the

year cycle which coincides with the 34th year of the Qianlong reign period

(which corresponds to 1769 of the western calendar) of the Qing Dynasty.