Question 84

Why did the Mayas stop at 2012?

My findings-

The world will not end in 2012! :) The Mayan calendar cycle will end and start a new one, just like we start a new year every December 31. The ancient Maya and Pre-Maya choose December 21, 2012 as the end of the “Long Count Calendar.” It is known that the Long Count was to end on a winter solstice. This system was put in place some 2,300 years ago. The Mayan created this counting system to track an unbroken sequence of days from the time it was inaugurated. It is believed that the long count was put in place around 355 B.C, but the oldest long count date was found corresponding to 32 B.C.

Why I picked this question-

Have you watched the movie? Everyone was anxious to go see it. This brought out my curiously to find out more facts about this topic and find out why the Mayan calendar ended in December 21, 2012.

Connections to the middle school math curriculum-

Students are fascinated to hear about the world coming to an end. Most students have already watched the movie “2012”, so teachers can take advantage of this situation to teach them a little bit about the Mayan calendar and how it works.
Bibliography-

http://www.famsi.org/research/vanstone/2012/index.html

http://www.greatdreams.com/2012.htm

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maya_calendar

http://www.adishakti.org/mayan_end_times_prophecy_12-21-2012.htm

Number of Days/Term

1/kin (day)

20/Uinal

360/Tun

7200/Katun

144000/Baktun