

Create a Timeline using Timeline.JS

Before you begin: Decide on a title and short description for your timeline. Identify the historically significant events you'll include on your timeline. For each event, you'll need the date, a name, and a brief explanation of the event and its significance. It's also a good idea to have media to accompany your event already identified. Media sources can be YouTube, Vimeo, SoundCloud, Dailymotion, Instagram, Twitter, Wikipedia, or an image from sources like Library of Congress or Digital Public Library of America.

1. Open Timeline.JS on your computer by visiting: <https://timeline.knightlab.com/>
2. Begin creating your timeline by clicking on the “**Make a Timeline**” button.
3. You should be redirected further down the page where you will see an option to “Get the Spreadsheet Template”. Click on that button.


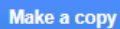


4. This will redirect you to a page like this:

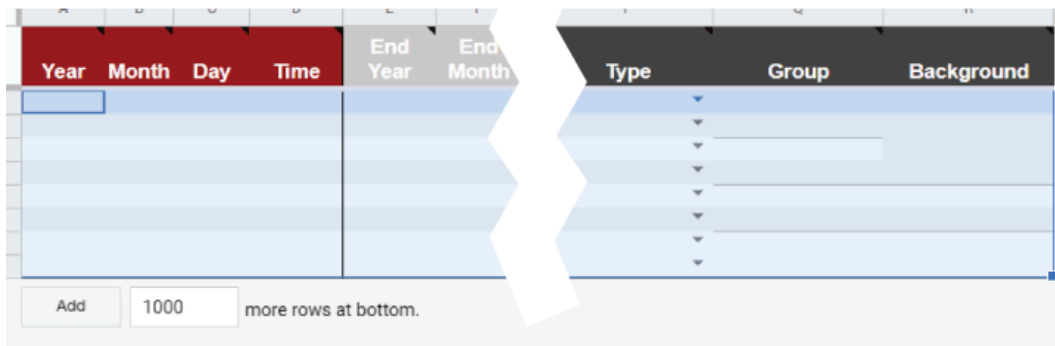


Copy document

Would you like to make a copy of **Official TimelineJS3 Template**?

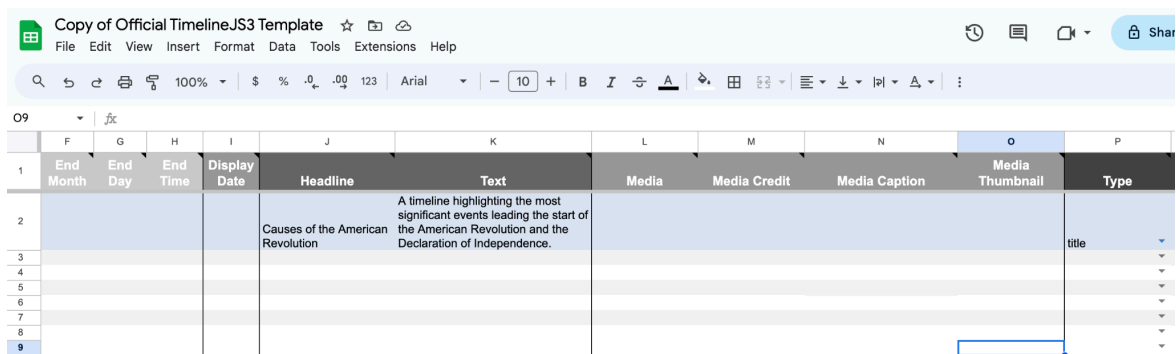


5. Select “Make a copy” and you will be taken to your main timeline data sheet.
6. This Google Sheets template already has some sample headings and timeline data in it. To get started, you should clear the template by selecting cell 2A to cell 4S. This is done by clicking and dragging the translucent box from the top left to the bottom right and deleting the contents using the delete key. This can also be done in multiple smaller selections based on your available device.



*NOTE: Do NOT delete or edit any of the data in row 1 of the spreadsheet!

7. Now that you have a blank template to create your timeline, you may notice that row 2 has a light blue background color. That is because this is the title slide for your timeline. Don't add any date information to this row, but instead add a title of your choice to the "Headline" column and some descriptive text to the "Text" column. See the example on the American Revolution below.
8. In the next four cells (Media to Media Thumbnail) you can add accepted media types (Youtube, Vimeo, Soundcloud, Dailymotion, Instagram, Twitter status, Wikipedia, or an image) to your title. This process will be explained in step 12 so you can skip this step for now.
9. Finally, in the "Type" column, choose "title" from the drop down menu.



10. You can now begin creating your timeline events in the subsequent rows. First, add date information to your event. An event only needs to have a "Year" to be displayed, so if you don't have any other date information, you can leave additional date fields on the sheet blank. However, if you have an end year to input, your timeline will show the

duration of the event. Months need to be input as their number equivalent (e.g., December would be 12 and January would be 1).

*NOTE: TimelineJS will only display the start year on your timeline by default. To overwrite the TimelineJS date formatting and add your own format (e.g., an event's start and end date), type the date you want displayed in the "Display Date" cell. Otherwise leave this cell empty. See the example below.

11. Next, add a name for the event to the "Headline" column and text explaining the event and an explanation of its significance to the "Text" column. This can be done by filling out the cells with the relevant information from your research. At this point, your timeline spreadsheet should look something like this:

Copy of Official TimelineJS3 Template

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
	Year	Month	Day	Time	End Year	End Month	End Day	End Time	Display Date	Headline	Text
2										Causes of the American Revolution	A timeline highlighting the most significant events leading the start of the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence.
3	1754				1763				1754-1763	The French and Indian War	The French and Indian War is the name given to the North American theater of the Seven Years' War, which was a global conflict among European powers. Disputes over land claims in the Ohio Valley led to a series of frontier battles between the French and British, with both sides receiving support from Native American tribes. Britain achieved extensive territorial gains as a result of the war but the event also triggered social and political changes that caused tension between Britain and the American colonies.
4	1765	3	22							Passage of the Stamp Act	The British Parliament passed the Stamp Act to help pay for British troops stationed in the colonies during the Seven Years' War. The act required the colonists to pay a tax, represented by a stamp, on various forms of papers, documents, and even playing cards. It was a direct tax imposed by the British government without the approval of the colonial legislatures and was payable only in British sterling, rather than colonial paper currency. Colonial resistance leads to the repeal of the Stamp Act, giving colonists confidence to resist other British taxes they see as unjust as well.

12. Finally, you can add media to each of your events, including links to YouTube, Vimeo, SoundCloud, Dailymotion, Instagram, Twitter, Wikipedia, or an image from sources like Library of Congress or Digital Public Library of America. In the media cell for the respective event, paste the link to the accepted media format. Next, add a credit for the media (if applicable) and an optional caption. Finally, in the event that your media cannot be loaded or is displayed as a thumbnail you can link an **image** file, no larger than 32px x

32px, in the media thumbnail cell which will appear in place of your media. A finished timeline event should look something like this:

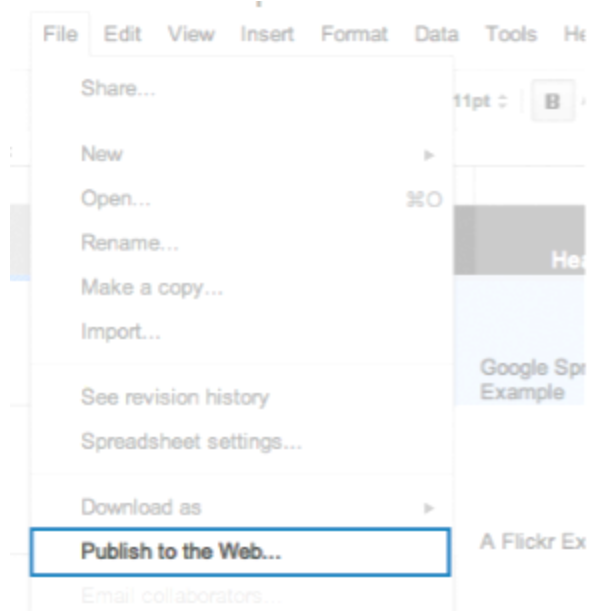
Copy of Official TimelineJS3 Template

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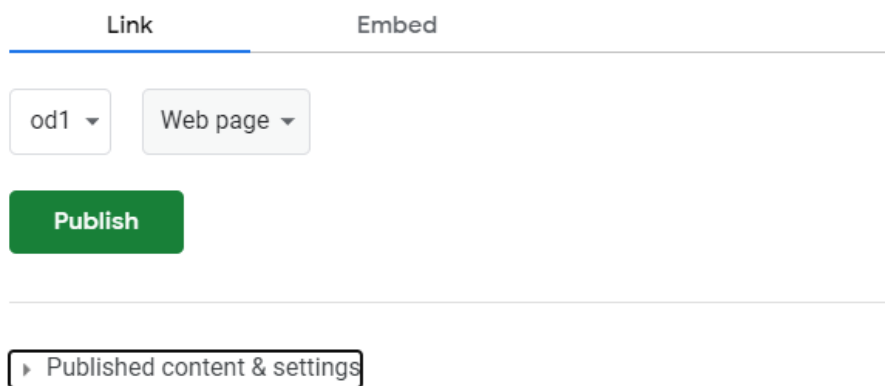
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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	Year	Month	Day	Time	End Year	End Month	End Day	End Time	Display Date	Headline	Text	Media	Media Credit	Media Caption	Media Thumbnail
2										Causes of the American Revolution	A timeline highlighting the most significant events leading the start of the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence.	https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/70/Declaration_of_Independence_1819.jpg	File:Declaration of Independence (1819), by John Trumbull.jpg. (2023, July 4). Wikimedia Commons. Retrieved 20:48, November 27, 2023 from https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Declaration_of_Independence_1819.jpg&oldid=780106202	John Trumbull's Declaration of Independence, being represented to the Congress	
3	1754				1763				1754-1763	The French and Indian War	The French and Indian War is the name given to the North American theater of the Seven Years' War, which was a global conflict among European powers. Disputes over land claims in the Ohio Valley led to a series of frontier battles between the French and British, with both sides receiving support from Native American tribes. Britain achieved extensive territorial gains as a result of the war but the event also triggered social and political changes that caused tension between Britain and the American colonies.	https://tile.loc.gov/titles/titles.loc.gov/titles/loc/go/v/item/2009581130	McConnell Map Co & McConnell, J. (1919) McConnell's historical maps of the United States. [Chicago, Ill.: McConnell Map Co] [Map] Retrieved from the Library of Congress. https://www.loc.gov/titles/titles.loc.gov/titles/loc/go/v/item/2009581130	A 1919 map displaying the territories that resulted from the French and Indian War	
4	1765	3	22							Passage of the Stamp Act	The British Parliament passed the Stamp Act to help pay for British troops stationed in the colonies during the Seven Years' War. The act required the colonists to pay a tax, represented by a stamp, on various forms of papers, documents, and even playing cards. It was a direct tax imposed by the British government without the approval of the colonial legislatures and was payable only in British sterling, rather than colonial paper currency. Colonial resistance leads to the repeal of the Stamp Act, giving colonists confidence to resist other British taxes they see as unjust as well.	https://youtu.be/hf3yP8S	Burns, K. (2022). Benjamin Franklin PBS.	Excerpt on the Stamp Act from Benjamin Franklin, a film by Ken Burns	

- Once you have completed adding events to your timeline, you need to publish your sheet to the web. You can do this by clicking on “File” and then choosing “Publish to the Web” (or “Share” and then “Publish to the Web”)



14. You should now see a window that looks like the one below. In the left box under Link select “od1” and leave the right box as “web page”. Then click publish. You may see a window pop-up asking you to confirm. Select OK. Then close out of the publish window.



15. After you have closed the publish window, copy the link of the google sheets in the **address bar** of the browser window. Then head over to <https://timeline.knightlab.com/#make> and scroll down to step 3. Paste the URL link you just copied into the field there.
- Note: Do **not** use the link that is generated in the “Publish to the web” window, use the url of the page from the address bar at the top of your browser.

3
Generate your timeline

Copy/paste spreadsheet URL into the box below to generate your timeline. (Make sure you've published the spreadsheet.)

Google Spreadsheet URL
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1b3uaR8gT-8GCXbMQFv8ni6tFk3aY4jsHjHc

Width
100%
Height
650

Optional settings (show)
Set language, fonts, starting slide and more.

16. Finally, in order to submit your completed project, scroll down to step 4 on the Timeline.JS website. You can preview your timeline there. To show it to others, you can copy the direct link to your project or use the embed option to post your project to a website.

4
Share your timeline

Share Link
Use this to link directly to your timeline.
If you're embedding on Medium.com or other oembed-aware services, just paste this link on a line by itself where you want your timeline to appear.

source=lgseUQmZibXVMiyKeqwaWPPrB4HS12GmWwBER6dzL4z0&font=Default&lang=en&initial_zoom=2&height=650

Embed
Copy this embed code and paste it on your site where you want your timeline to appear (just like a YouTube video).

<iframe src='https://cdn.knightlab.com/libs/timeline3/latest/embed/index.html?source=lgseUQmZibXVMiyKeqwaWPPrB4HS12GmWwBER6dzL4z0&font=Default&lang=en&initial_zoom=2&height=650' width='100%' height='650' webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen allowfullscreen

Preview
Open Preview in a new window

17. The finished project will look something like the image below.

