

How Do Historians Organize Time?

Notes and Discussion

Name: _____

1. Brainstorm and list all the ways historians keep track of and organize time and historical events.

2. Key Notes:

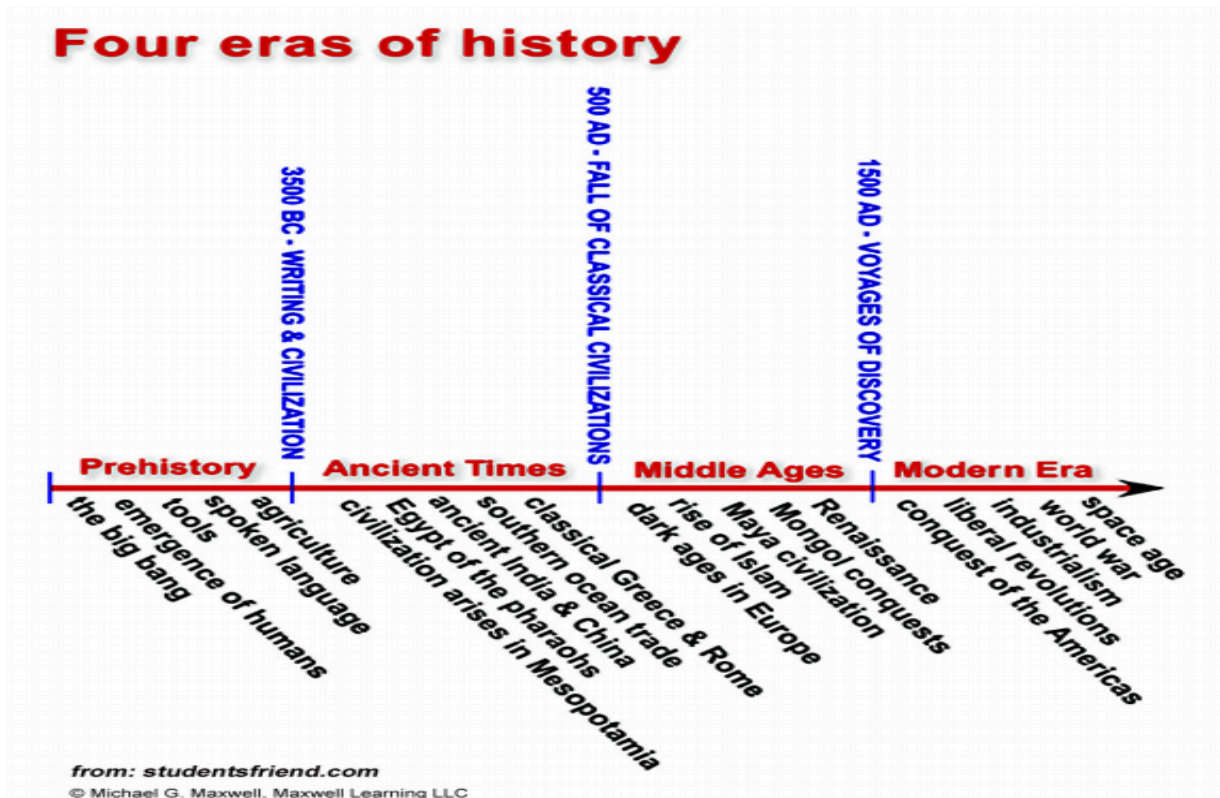
The idea of keeping track of time is called **Temporal Thinking**.

Devices (tools) used by Historians include:

1. **Eras** or a large span of time.
2. **Calendars** to keep track of days, months, and years.
3. **Timelines** to help organize time in a simpler visual way.

3. We will start with Eras. What exactly are eras? Eras are shown on the timeline below. They are large spans of time that have similar lifestyles happening. A major event in history ends the era and begins a new one. For example, the invention of farming ended the lifestyle of hunting for food to the new lifestyle of growing food. There are four main Eras that we will be studying. They are written in **red below**: Prehistory, Ancient History, Middle Ages, Modern History.

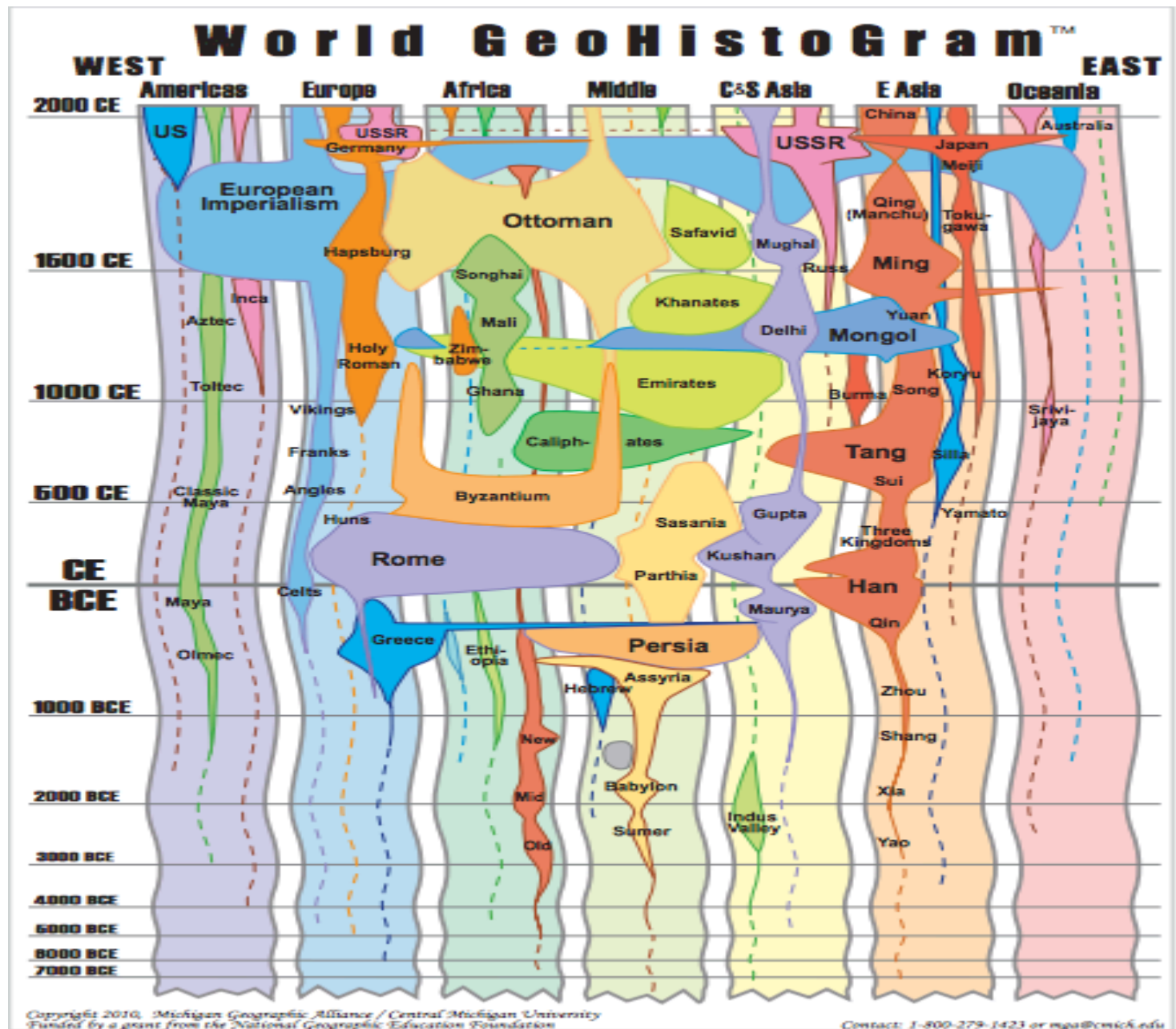
Directions: After you analyze the timeline and Eras, answer the questions that follow the timeline.



1. What are the four eras of history?

2. What major event happened during prehistory that made historians create a new era?
3. List three key aspects of the era labeled ancient times.
4. What major event caused the new era called the Middle Ages?
5. What major event started the Modern Era?
6. Do you agree or disagree with the division of world history into these four eras?
7. List two major periods within Era 2.
8. In 7th grade social studies we will be studying Era 1, 2, and 3. List the topics that we will most likely study.

4. The next example of a timeline is called a Geohistogram. Make three observations about this timeline.

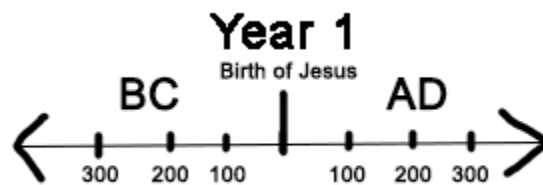


Why would historians use this style of timeline? How could this help you better understand world history?

Timeline Basics

There are a few parts all timelines have in common and in order to read a timeline you need to make sure you understand the following:

1. **Chronological order**- all dates on a timeline go in order from the earliest event to the most recent events.
2. **Increments**- All timelines go up or down by the same increment of time (by hour, day, year, 1000's of years).
3. **BC/AD**-Timelines that date before Christ are dated differently than dates after Christ. See the timeline below.



1. What do you notice about year 1?
2. Why are there two 100 dates?
3. How would you describe the date if it happened 200 years before Jesus.
4. Now the tough part, if we are living in 2000 AD how many years ago was 300 BC? **think before you speak :)

BC means before Christ- makes sense **BUT**

AD does NOT mean after death it actually means Anno Domini (Latin for year of the Lord).

SO... year 1 starts when Jesus was BORN not when he died. **But what if you do not believe in Jesus? Instead of using BC and AD historians can use BCE and CE.

BCE means before the common era (Before Christ)

CE means common era (Once Christ was born)

Let's practice! Using the timeline below fill in major events in your life. **Use equal increments.** Put in **chronological order.**

My Timeline

A vertical timeline template. It consists of a central vertical line with an upward-pointing arrow at the top. To the left of this line are four short horizontal dashes. To the right are ten horizontal lines, each starting from the central vertical line. There are ten black dots on the central vertical line, one at the start of each horizontal line on the right.

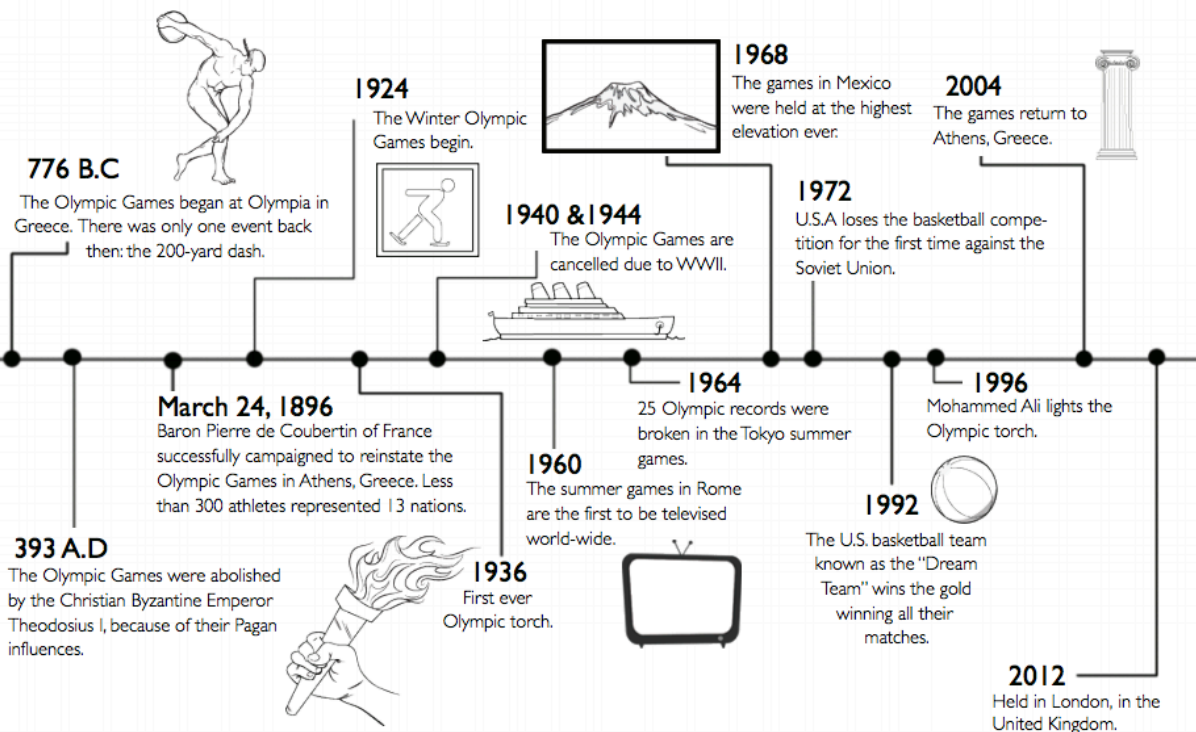
Share out. Make sure your teacher sees it so we can make sure you used correct increments and chronological order. She will put a check-mark on your paper here.

***** I did it!

***** Need more practice

Now let's see what you can do. Looking at the timeline below, answer the questions that follow **without** the help of your neighbors.

History of the Olympics Timeline



1. What year did the Olympics begin? What Era is this considered?
2. How many years were the Olympics around when Theodosius abolished them?
 - a. How did you figure out the math for this answer?
 - b. Check with your neighbor to see if your answers match.
3. How many years between the first Olympics and the 2012 Olympics?
 - a. How did you figure out the math for this answer?
 - b. Check with your neighbor to see if your answers match.
4. Write your own timeline 'math' question for your neighbor to answer. Be sure to include the correct answer so you can check their work.

Name: _____

Exit Note:

List and describe three temporal devices you learned about? Be specific!

1.

- 2.
- 3.

Describe/Explain Grade: _ _ _ _

Can you think temporally? Meaning can you read and understand the devices (timelines, eras, periods, calendars) used by historians to organize time? Can you put the following events on a time-line? 2000 BCE, 1, 1000 CE, 300 BCE, 400 CE, Label the 4 eras on the timeline.

Analyze Grade: _ _ _ _ _

Extension:

With what you have learned so far, why do humans use calendars?

With what you know, do you think all calendars look the same? Why or why not?

Look at the Calendar link below and compare contrast calendars. One must be the Gregorian Calendar used by the United States.

<http://calendopedia.com/compare.htm>

Name : _____

Venn Diagram

