Every Universe, Timeline, & Dimension EXPLAINED (Ben 10) | Tracing the Border #17

Hey guys, before we begin, I'd like to announce that I will be showcasing and live illustrating in Boston this January 24th in Boston, MA. Come see some epic live performances and engage in the craft of other talents artists. Tickets are sold in the link below, and I hope to see you there!

Ben 10 began as a show about a young boy on a road trip with his family that gains ten super powers and fights common criminals and the occasional alien threat, and evolved into a colossal mess of enough time travel and alternative dimensions to complete with Doctor Who on one of the hardest sci-fi shows to keep track of.

This video will break down every Dimension, Universe, and Timeline shown in the original Ben 10 Franchise. But first, what's the difference between these three categories? I'm Kuro the Artist, and I'm glad you've asked.

[TITLE SEQUENCE]

DIMENSIONS

A dimension is a natural existence that has an immeasurable property of space. It itself is not technically physical, but can contain all forms of matter, energy, and properties that it takes to build a universe. A dimension can exist *without* a universe in it, which is usually presented as a white void. Inside, a universe can be created, and multiple universes can exist within the same dimension.

CLIP: Kevin "I thought the universe was like, *everything*..."

Universes are usually created by the Contemellia, extra-dimensional beings that travel the multiverse and make universes for fun(?). However, there are known exceptions, such as the **Null Void**, which was created by the Galvan after discovering how to breach into an uninhabited dimension. This dimension was utilized to contain prisoners, but eventually, the prisoners colonized, and their descendants created a small economy.

The Forge of Creation is also a dimension that exists outside the realm known as the Omniverse, and is nearly inaccessible unless you're either a god, or have a god key, dramatically titled the Map of Infinity. This is the place where Celestialsapiens are born.

There are also **Pocket Dimensions**. It is unknown if pocket dimensions are capable of holding a universe within, but they seem to be used as pit-stops for all the extra-dimensional beings traveling the dimensions. They are also disconnected from the omniverse as well, and are unaffected by Multiversal+ occurrences.

Some other notable dimensions are **Diagon's World**, which is wherever this squid demon comes from. Diagon, being extra-dimensional himself, was able to hop between realms and start converting them to his worship. One of these realms is **Ledgerdomain**, also known as the realm of magic, where mages like Charmcaster and Hex are from.

There's also the place where Paradox built the **Perplexahedron** to contain a piece of the Map of Infinity, which is a giant death trap inspired by the horror film series *Cube*.

There are many others such as **Rex's Dimension**, **Dimension 12**, and wherever *this* is **(That place where Eon and Paradox are in "Ben Again")**, but there's not much to say about them other than them being other places that exist.

UNIVERSES

When multiple universes exist in the same dimension, they become a multiverse. Usually, due to their proximity, natural events of these universes play out very similarly, with minor differences between each other. These universes become Parallel Universes to each other.

Even though they share some common denominators, these universes exists completely independently from each other, and their own events are isolated and do not affect one another. Unless, of course, someone purposefully travels to that universe.

Obviously, we have Ben Prime's universe, but let's begins to go over some of the alternative possibilities.

1) Gwen 10 A

Our first alternate universe is one that introduces two separate timelines right off the bat. The first timeline presumably unfolds in a similar fashion that the Classic series did up until the beginning of the second Season. Everything is exactly the same, but this Ben isn't Ben Prime. While he is an alternative version of Ben, he doesn't get some crazy gimmick to set him apart from the others.

The second timeline shows this Ben getting thrown back to the moment he first found the Omnitrix, although this time, Gwen got to it first. This Ben remembers everything that's going to happen in the future, yet similar to Flashpoint, Ben's time travel somehow changed the natural course of events, and Vilgax does not get damaged and turned into a cyborg, and instead heads straight to earth mere days after Gwen found the Omnitrix. Ben was able to use his future knowledge to cheat his way around everyone having to figure out what's going on, but does not ever receive the Omnitrix by the end of the story, and it is unknown if he ever returned to his normal time period.

2) Goodbye and Good Riddance

Our second alternative universe is often mistaken for an alternate timeline, but as these events happen without any form of quantum manipulation, and are never brought up in any way by Ben Prime, this is better classified as a completely separate universe.

In this universe, Ben's identity is revealed to the world at the end of summer vacation, where he defeats Vilgax with the aid of his father, Gwen, and Grandpa. It's assumed that this universe can eventually lead up to the original Ben 10,000, and could very well be the original Timeline B that was forced out of the main continuity due to Gwendolyn's actions, but again, there's no evidence to prove that this reality exists though some sort of time debacle, and is best left as an alternate universe.

3) Race Against Time

This universe is where Alex Winter's live action films take place. They both share similar traits to what happens in the main continuity, but there are subtle differences that force them apart. This universe is where we are first introduced to Eon, and the main trio's counterparts from this worlds make a cameo appearance in the episode "Ben 10,000 Returns" through a spell Gwen used on the Hands of Armageddon.

This universe also shows a lot of key elements that come into play during Ultimate Alien, like Ben's car, Nanomech, the Swarm Queen, and of course, Eon. While these two films are very different in tone, they are in fact in the same universe, as Lee Majors was event set to return to the role of Grandpa Max, but ended up being unable to commit.

4) Ultimate Ben

This is a universe where Ben didn't have to destroy the Omnitrix to defeat Vilgax, therefore, he kept the same device his whole life. This was mentioned when Paradox was describing the different universes and timelines to the gang and Ultimate Ben. While this does sound very similar to what would happen if Timeline B were to continue all the way though, or also match up with the Goodbye and Good Riddance Universe, there is no evidence to suggest that they are, in fact, the same world, and the fact that Paradox is using this as an example to alternative paths, highly suggests that this universe is not tied to Ben Prime.

5) Albedo X

In this very same scene, Paradox also mentions a world where Albedo unlocked Alien X, but could not successfully use him and was trapped motionless for nearly a year. This is actually a reference to the video game Ben 10: Vilgax Attacks, where this happened as a post-credits scene for the DS version. It's a very obscure yet satisfying continuity nod, which this show is notorious for.

6) Ben's Recreation

After Ben fails to stop the universe being destroyed, he uses Alien X to create an exact duplicate, to the best of his current abilities. The small changes to reality help point out the differences between the original prime universe, and after the recreation. To help specify, Ben didn't reverse time to stop the universe from being destroyed. After it was already gone, Ben had replaced it. One might argue that it's still the same universe, but it's just the same dimension, with a replacement universe inhabiting it.

7) Ben 23

This is knowns as the 23rd Dimension, even though I still don't know how they actually number the Dimensions in this series. By my list, this is only the seventh alternative dimension we've seen so far. But this is where the infamous Ben 23 is native to, where it's not "Hero Time" it's Bieber Fever. This is a Dimension where Grandpa Max dies and his parents are still garbage at being parents I guess, so he turns into what any adolescent Twitch Streamer would do if they had superpowers: turn his heroic into a giant marketing ploy and get it all on video. Every adventure he spends with Ben Prime, meaning yes, he does come back multiple times, he does travel a little further down the hero's path. He's also mysteriously unlocked aliens that Ben Prime didn't even have at that age, and ones he got under extremely specific circumstances, like Nanomech and Frakenstrike. I can understand the latter, but Nanomech was an artificial creation of the Omnitrix and shouldn't already have dormant DNA inside waiting to be unlocked, but hey, that's not what this video is about.

8) Bad Ben

There's a universe where Ben is evil.

9) Mad Ben

There's a universe where Ben is evil and also Australian.

10) Benzarro

A universe where Ben is a zombie.

11) Nega Ben

A universe where Ben sat by himself at the lunch table.

12) No Watch Ben

And a universe where the Omnitrix never existed and Ben is another average unsatisfied millennial.

13) Gwen 10 B

There's also another Gwen 10 Universe, which isn't much different from the first, except this Gwen gets to participate in the upcoming multiversal battle, and the other loses her's to Max.

14) Post-Ben Universe

Lastly, the Post-Ben Universe.

I've talked about this a lot in my other videos, but basically Ben Prime's universe got destroyed, and he used Alien X to make a new one. This one's meant to replace his original universe, but has minor differences from the original.

TIMELINES

`We've covered how dimensions can split off into alternative universes, but let's go a step further.

A timeline is the natural progression of a universe from start to finish. Every universe begins with one timeline. While universes function independently from one another, an alternative timeline cannot exist unless it is created by changing pre-established events, creating a new outcome, remarkably, through time travel.

An alternative timeline usually rewrites the original, changing how the universe continues to unfold, but previous timelines can be revisited through extra-dimensional means. These timelines all inevitably trace back to the same universe. One universe's timeline cannot affect another through typical time travel means. Meaning if something were to change in Universe A, Universe B will remain the same.

I will only be going over the Timelines that derive from Ben Prime, but trust me, there's quite a lot.

Timeline:

A) Original Timeline

From the very first episode of Ben 10, we are introduced to two different timelines. The events of the first timeline, **Timeline A**, are unknown. Presumably, either Max would obtain the Omnitrix as Xylene's original intention, or Ben would end up finding the Omnitrix some other way.

As revealed in the Omniverse episode "And Then There Was Ben", Vilgax succeeded in destroying the multiverse a future timeline we will discuss later, leaving only one alternate Ben to survive. This Ben is taken back in time by Professor Paradox to help reset Ben Prime's timeline by using the Omnitrix to put things into motion, creating **Timeline B**.

B) Ben Prime's Future is Set Up

This timeline is the actual timeline that the audience follows for the majority of the

Classic series, and where we shift focus to the primary antagonist, known as Ben Prime. This is the Ben we typically stick with all the way until the end of Omniverse, and is known to be the most capable among all of his alternative counterparts.

C) Ben Goes to the Future

The series would continue normally all the way up to Ben becoming Ben 10,000, however, this Ben became misguided, narcissistic, and vastly more anti-social. This prompted Gwendolyn to go back in time to Ben Prime's youth to give his future counterpart an self-evaluation based on a living comparison. While this trip to the future doesn't change things immediately, Gwendolyn's interference ended up creating a new timeline, **Timeline C**.

In this timeline, Ben Prime does not grow up to be the future that we saw. We do get to explore this future a little bit more in what I can only classify as a bonus episode, known as Ken 10, but this is no longer Ben's true future. However, Ben Prime still retains the memories of his visit, though, which are brought up in episodes like "War of the Worlds Part 1" and "Ben 10,000 Returns." This timeline continues into the films Secret of the Omnitrix and Destroy All Aliens.

Fun Fact: The To'kustar battle caused so much damage to Bellwood, that officials secretly got the help of aliens to rebuild the city faster then they could have alone. These aliens set up tents and small colonies underground during the construction process, and eventually evolved into Undertown over the years.

This Ben is also the one hurled into the future in the episode "The Forge of Creation", but this event does not create a new timeline. Instead, this Ben is brought back to his time by Professor Paradox, and vaguely recalls these events as a dream.

D) Hugo Destroys The World

Skipping ahead to Alien Force, Ben and Gwen are now 15 and pal around with Kevin instead of their Grandpa Max. In their earlier adventures they first encounter Professor Paradox, who is trying to obtain a creature that ages everything it touches. Failing to stop it leads to a future where the entire world is destroyed.

Luckily, the gang is able to prevent this from happening, creating **Timeline D**.

E) The Dam Explodes

This timeline continues a few more episodes until the Incursean invasion, where a misfire causes a large dam to cave putting everyone at risk of drowning. Ben uses Alien X to rewind time to moments before the dam explodes, creating **Timeline E**, and the team apprehend Sevenseven.

F) Gwen Goes Back In Time

Further down the line, Gwen gets the idea to go back in time and stop Kevin from mutating when he and Ben tried to hack the Omnitrix to stop Vilgax. She disregards a warning

from Paradox, and goes back in time to that night, bringing her past self aside to convince her to stop Ben and Kevin, creating **Timeline F**.

G) Gwen Goes Back In Time (Again)

She succeeds, but this leads to a future where Hex and Charmcaster were able to conquer the entire Earth, because preventing Kevin's mutation stopped him from obtaining the necessary abilities to counter their plans. Realizing her mistake, Gwen goes back in time again to create **Timeline G**, and wipes her original past self's memory. I found this interesting as this is one of the rare times where a time traveler's alterations do not get immediately reset, so they have to take special precaution to ensure the timeline plays out correctly. That is also why this reset is classified as a new timeline, rather than reverting back to Timeline E.

H) Ben 10,000 Returns

We now reach an episode that becomes one of the most referred to episodes when discussing time travel and alternative dimensions, which is Ben 10,000 Returns. Here, Ben meets his future self for the second time, but still retains the memory of the original one, and points out that they don't match. This is where it gets established that every time Ben meets his future self, his future will change, meaning that after this episode, Ultimate Ben is no longer his true future, either, splitting Ben Prime off yet again into **Timeline H**.

I) Ben Again

Things play out normally for a while after that, until Eon shows up again and swaps the minds of Ben Prime with his younger self through time, temporarily creating **Timeline I**, which only exists in this loop. After the Bens and Gwens work together to defeat Eon, the Bens merge the timelines back together using Clockwork, and Timeline I disappears, reverting everything back to Timeline H.

J) Spanner's First Introduction

Now this is a very subtle one, but it still technically counts. When Paradox gave Ben's future son Kenny, he starts to travel to the past to aid his father on certain adventures. In his first appearance, he simply takes down a single enemy before hastily disappearing, but this is still an alteration to the timeline, and now creates **Timeline J**.

K) Animo Crackers

In the future, Dr. Animo gets the idea to go back in time and aid his younger self with...whatever. And to stop him, Spanner goes back with him. We are unaware that Spanner is supposed to be a time traveler at this point, but even so, Future Animo gives it away, and their meddling creates **Timeline K**.

And yeah, since it's Animo, things get cleaned up with no consequences.

L) The Chrono-Bomb Explodes

Now we're at one of the most shocking episodes of the whole franchise, where Vilgax gathers together an army of evil Ben Tennysons from across the multiverse. It's interesting to note a line uttered by Vilgax: "For over a decade…"

Ben's first encounter with Vilgax is at age 10, and currently, Ben is 16. While only six years have passed for Ben, at least ten or more have happened for Vilgax. This is because Vilgax has spent the last few years time traveling with Eon to multiple universes, trying to recruit every Ben Tennyson he could.

-line about Vilgax molding the Bens-

So at some point between Seasons 3 and 5 of Omniverse, Vilgax has splintered off from the timeline. Now, he is much older than when Ben last encountered him months ago. This may explain how Vilgax was able to encounter Ben at age 11 with his squid monsters, despite being thrown into space a year earlier and noticeably absent for the next five years. These time travel interferences from Vilgax may create a new timeline for every affected period, but since we don't know how much time travel Vilgax had done and where he went, we'll just say that his aberration's end result in **Timeline L**.

Anyway, after a big battle between a bunch of alternative Bens (and Gwen), the chronobomb activates, destroying every single universe except for one - the one where the Omnitrix never existed. This Ben received Ben Prime's own device seconds before his death, and is now aging outside of his own timeline as well as Vilgax.

This Ben works with Paradox to reboot the timeline and restore the multiverse, and was the very Ben that interacted with Timeline A and created the first alternative timeline we see. When he returns, **Timeline L** is once again restored.

M) Fight at the Museum

From this point forward, we're gonna be dealing with much more complicated time travel. So for the sake of keeping it simple, I'm going to skip going over the details of what everyone's motivation for time traveling is, and just point out the instance. If you wanna know more, well, go watch the show!

So Maltruant begins his quest collecting all of his body parts throughout time and space and sends Subdora and Exo-Skull to a museum, creating **Timeline M**. Spanner is there again too and lets it slip he's from the future. Subdora and Exo-Skull escape, and Spanner returns to the future.

N) Feedback vs Time Beast

A few weeks later, Rook and Ben catch them stealing a Time Beast egg with Eon's aid. Eon rapidly ages one into a Time Beast, and Ben selects Feedback to contain the monster. Things

do not go as planned, and a spectating Ben 10k suggests Paradox to go back, creating **Timeline N**.

O) Gravattack vs Time Beast

Now, Ben 10k and Paradox aid Ben Prime and Rook, and Ben uses Gravattack to try to contain the Time Beast. Meanwhile, Ben 10k creates the Time Cycles. Gravattack accidentally creates a black hole that will eventually destroy everything, so Paradox resets everything once more into **Timeline O**.

R) Time Cycles

Now there are two Bens, two Rooks, along with Ben 10k and Paradox, and they use the Time Cycles to deage the Time Beast. Ben 10k creates a second set of Time Cycles for the time remnant Ben and Rook to return to the period of the Timeline they are from, and eventually merge back into Ben and Rook Prime. Since the black hole was prevented, this creates **Timeline R**.

Timeline R is our final timeline, as there is more time travel shenanigans that happen after this episode, those events are contained in a time-loop, and have already happened in the previous timelines. Nothing was changed, so nothing new was created. But if you'd like, these events are covered in the final two episodes of Omniverse where George Washington fights Vilgax.

You can also check out 5 Years Later to see some more alternative universes and whatnot at kurothewebsite.com

Let me know if I missed any in the official Ink Tank discord, and donate to our Patreon to support future projects like this.

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