

## Timeline

(dates primarily from *The Western Experience* by Mortimer Chambers *et al.*)

ca. 2580–2560 B.C. > Great Pyramid at Giza, Egypt built

ca. 1900 > Abraham migrates to Palestine

1792-1750 > Hammurabi rules Babylonia

ca. 1250 > Trojan War? (Greeks vs. Trojans)

ca. 1020-1000 > Saul rules Israel

ca. 1000-961 > David rules Israel

961-922 > Solomon rules Israel

776 > First athletic games held in Olympia, Greece

753 > Traditional date of Rome's founding

ca. 750 > Homer composes *Iliad* & *Odyssey* in Greek

612 > Babylonians capture Nineveh; Assyrian empire collapses

ca. 600 > Hanging Gardens of Babylon built

586 > Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar destroys Jerusalem

ca. 575-570 > Solon reforms laws in Athens, Greece

ca. 560 > Temple of Artemis at Ephesus built

ca. 530 > Pythagoras of Samos active

509 > Rome overthrows its kings; establishes Republic

508 > Democracy established in Athens, Greece

490 > Battle of Marathon (Athenians & Plataeans defeat Persians)  
486 > Persian King Darius dies; Xerxes takes over  
ca. 485 > Gorgias of Leontini, Sicily, is born  
480 (August) > Battle of Thermopylae (Persians defeat Spartans)  
480 (September) > Battle of Salamis (Greeks defeat Persians); Kritios Boy created  
479 > Battle of Plataea (Greeks defeat Persians)  
469 > Socrates born in Athens, Greece  
ca. 435 > Statue of Zeus made at Olympia, Greece  
458 > Aeschylus' trilogy *Oresteia* first staged in Athens  
ca. 450 > Sophists become active in Athens, Greece  
447-432 > Parthenon built in Athens, Greece  
441 > Sophocles' *Antigone* first staged in Athens  
431 > Peloponnesian War begins (Athens vs. Sparta); Euripides' *Medea* first staged in Athens  
429 > Pericles dies in Athens, Greece  
ca. 429-425 > Sophocles' *Oedipus the King* first staged in Athens  
428 > Plato born in Athens, Greece  
404 > Peloponnesian War ends (Sparta defeats Athens)  
399 > Socrates executed in Athens, Greece  
ca. 385-370 > Plato's *Symposium* written  
ca. 380 > Gorgias of Leontini, Sicily, dies  
353-350 > Tomb of Mausolus built at Halicarnassus

336-322 > Plato's student Aristotle active in Athens, Greece  
347 > Plato dies in Athens, Greece.  
341-270 > Life of Epicurus, founder of Epicurean philosophy  
338 > Philip of Macedon conquers most of Greece  
334-262 > Life of Zeno of Citium, founder of Stoic philosophy  
336 > Philip of Macedon assassinated; Phil's son Alexander takes over  
336-323 > Alexander conquers western Asia (Persians) & Egypt  
323 > Alexander the Great dies in Babylon; causes uncertain  
292-280 > Colossus of Rhodes, Greece built  
280-247 > Lighthouse at Alexandria, Egypt built  
ca. 254 > Roman comic poet Plautus born  
184 > Roman comic poet Plautus dies  
146 > Romans destroy Carthage, Africa.  
140 > Gaius Laelius the Wise is consul at Rome  
129 > Scipio Aemilianus (Scipio the Younger) dies under mysterious circumstances at Rome  
122 > Gaius Fannius is consul at Rome  
106 January 3 > Marcus Tullius Cicero born at Arpinum, Italy  
70 October 15 > Roman poet Virgil born  
58-50 > Julius Caesar conquers Gaul  
45 > Cicero writes *De Amicitia (On Friendship)*  
44 March 15 > Julius Caesar assassinated in Rome, Italy; civil war breaks out

43 > Second Triumvirate orders the death of Cicero.

43 March 20 > Roman poet Ovid born

31 > Battle of Actium; Augustus defeats Antony & Cleopatra; Augustus becomes sole ruler of Roman empire

ca. 30-19 > Virgil writes the *Aeneid* in Latin

19 > The Roman poet Virgil dies

All Dates Above The Line Are B.C.

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All Dates Below The Line Are A.D.

ca. 8 > Roman poet Ovid completes the *Metamorphoses*

8 > Roman poet Ovid exiled by Augustus to Tomis

14 > Romans build Pont du Gard aqueduct in France

14 > Emperor Augustus dies; Tiberius becomes emperor

17 > Roman poet Ovid dies

37 > Emperor Tiberius dies; Caligula becomes emperor

41 > Emperor Caligula assassinated; Claudius becomes emperor

43 > Romans conquer Britain

54 > Emperor Claudius poisoned to death; Nero becomes emperor

68 > Emperor Nero commits suicide; civil war breaks out

69 > Vespasian becomes emperor

70 > future Roman emperor Titus conquers Judea

79 > Pompeii, Italy destroyed by Mt. Vesuvius' eruption

80 > Flavian Amphitheater (Colosseum) opens in Rome, Italy

September 13, 81 > Emperor Titus dies; his bro Domitian becomes emperor

81 > Arch of Titus built in Rome, Italy

96 > Emperor Domitian assassinated; Nerva becomes emperor

98 > Emperor Nerva dies; Trajan becomes emperor

### **100s**

117 > Emperor Trajan dies; Hadrian becomes emperor

ca. 125 > Pantheon completed in Rome, Italy

138 > Emperor Hadrian dies; Antoninus Pius becomes emperor

161 > Emperor Antoninus Pius dies; Marcus Aurelius becomes emperor

### **200s**

284 > Roman empire splits into East & West

### **300s**

308-312 > Basilica of Constantine & Maxentius built in Rome, Italy

330 > Constantinople (Istanbul, Turkey) becomes capital of Roman Empire

### **400s**

410 > Visigoths sack Rome, Italy

March 17, 461 - Saint Patrick, Christian missionary, bishop and apostle of Ireland, dies at Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland.

476 > Western Roman empire falls

### **500s**

528 > Justinian's law code published. It rationalized hundreds of years of existing Roman laws.

532-537 > Hagia Sophia built in Constantinople (Istanbul, Turkey)

570-632 > Life of Muhammad, founder of Islam

### 600s

632, June 8 - Muhammad, the prophet who spread Islam, dies in Medina (Saudi Arabia).

632-750 > Expansion of Islam

651-652 > *Koran* (Qur'an) written down

661 > Assassination of Ali, Muhammad's son-in-law, starts break between Sunni Muslims and Shiite Muslims

685-691 > Dome of the Rock built in Jerusalem, Israel.

### 700s

768-814 > Charlemagne rules much of western Europe (Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and western Germany).

### 1000s

ca. 1000 > date of only surviving manuscript of the Beowulf epic

1066, October 14 - Ten months after becoming king, Harold II of England is defeated by the Norman forces of William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings, fought seven miles from Hastings, England. Effect: Anglo-Saxon phase of English history comes to an end; French becomes the language of the king's court and gradually blends with the Anglo-Saxon tongue to give birth to modern English.

1095, November 27 > Pope Urban II gives rise to the Crusades by calling all Christians in Europe to war against Muslims in order to reclaim the Holy Land.

1098-1179 > Life of Hildegard of Bingen

1099 > Crusaders capture Jerusalem

## 1100s

1118 - [Knights Templar organization](#) was founded. Its self-imposed mission was to protect Christian pilgrims on their way to and from [the Holy Land](#) during the [Crusades](#).

1163 > Construction of [Notre Dame](#) ([Paris](#), France) begins

1175 > date of only manuscript of Hildegard of [Bingen](#)'s *Columba Aspexit*.

## 1200s

1215 > [Magna Carta](#) written

## 1300s

1302, January 27 - [Dante is exiled](#) from [Florence, Italy](#).

ca. 1340 > Geoffrey Chaucer, author of *Canterbury Tales*, born

1345 > Construction of [Notre Dame](#) ([Paris](#), France) completed

1347 > Black Death arrives in Europe

1360 > Mechanical clock invented

1387-1400 > Chaucer writes the *Canterbury Tales*

ca. 1380-1400 > *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* written

## 1400s

January 6, 1412 > [Joan of Arc](#), the "Maid of [Orléans](#)," is believed to have been born on this date. She lived only 19 years, but she would become a Roman Catholic saint and a national hero of France for her pivotal role in the Hundred Years' War.

1420 > [Brunelleschi](#) starts work on the dome of [Florence Cathedral](#)

ca. 1430-1432 > Donatello's *David* created

1431 > Joan of Arc burned at the stake at Rouen, France.

1436 > Brunelleschi completes the dome of Florence Cathedral

1452 > Leonardo da Vinci born in Italy

1453 > Eastern Roman empire falls

1453 - The Ottoman Turks gain control of Constantinople (= Istanbul, Turkey). This lets them control the Silk Roads, which were the overland trade routes between Europe and Asia.

1455 > Gutenberg Bible printed in Mainz, Germany

1475 > Michelangelo born in Caprese Michaelangelo, Italy

1478 > Spanish Inquisition begins persecution of non-Catholics

1482 > Botticelli's Primavera painted

1483 > Botticelli's Mars and Venus painted

1486 > Botticelli's Birth of Venus painted

January 2, 1492 > Kingdom of Granada falls to the Christian forces of King Ferdinand V and Queen Isabella I, and the Moors lose their last foothold in Spain.

1492 > Spanish Inquisition expels 160,000+ Jews from Spain

1495-1498 > Leonardo's Last Supper painted

## 1500s

1500, January 26 - First European explorer reaches Brazil. Spanish explorer Vicente Yanez Pinzon, who had commanded the Nina during Christopher Columbus' first expedition to the New World, reaches the northeastern coast of Brazil during a voyage under his command.

1501-1504 > Michelangelo's David sculpted



1503-1505 > Leonardo's Mona Lisa painted

1508-[1512](#) > Michelangelo paints ceiling of Sistine Chapel in Vatican City.

1509 > John Calvin born in Noyon, France.

1510-1511 > Raphael paints his School of Athens

1513, April 02 - [Ponce de León](#) claims Florida for Spain.

1517 > Martin Luther's 95 theses; start of Protestant Reformation

1519 > Leonardo da Vinci dies

1520 > Portuguese navigator [Ferdinand Magellan enters the Pacific Ocean](#) with three ships, becoming the first European explorer to reach the Pacific from the Atlantic.

1521 > Martin Luther refuses to recant at the Diet (assembly) of Worms.

1528 > Castiglione's *The Art of the Courtier* published

1528 - Spanish explorer [Cabeza de Vaca](#) lands in Texas; he is credited with being the first European to land in Texas.

1531 > Pope [Clement VII forbids King Henry VIII](#) from remarrying.

1533 > King Henry VIII defies the Pope & marries Anne Boleyn.

1534 > King Henry VIII proclaims himself head of Church of England.

1536 > John Calvin publishes the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

1542, December 08 > [Mary Queen of Scots born](#)

1555 > Peace of Augsburg temporarily settles conflict between Catholics and Protestants.

1564 > Michelangelo dies; John Calvin dies in Geneva, Switzerland.

1587 - After 19 years of imprisonment, [Mary, Queen of Scots is beheaded](#) at [Fotheringhay Castle](#) in England for her complicity in a plot to murder Queen Elizabeth I.

1594, December 28 > Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* first performed

ca. 1595 > Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet* written

## 1600s

January 16, 1605 - Miguel de Cervantes' *El ingenioso hidalgo Don Quixote de la Mancha*, better known as [Don Quixote](#), [is published](#). The book is considered by many to be the first modern novel.

1610 > John Donne writes "Death Be Not Proud"

1623-1624 > Bernini sculpts his *David*.

1648 > [Treaty of Westphalia](#) ends the Thirty Years' War between Catholics and Protestants in northern Europe.

April 12, 1633 - Chief inquisitor Father Vincenzo Maculani da Firenzuola, appointed by Pope Urban VIII, begins the [inquisition of physicist and astronomer Galileo](#) Galilei. Galileo was ordered to turn himself in to the Holy Office to begin trial for holding the belief that the Earth revolves around the sun, which was deemed heretical by the Catholic Church.

1667 > John Milton's *Paradise Lost* first published

1685 > Composer J.S. Bach born

## 1700s

1750 > Composer J.S. Bach dies in [Leipzig](#), Germany.

1775, March 23 > Patrick Henry gives his "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech at [St. John's Church](#) in [Richmond](#), Virginia

1778, January 18 - English explorer Captain James Cook becomes the [first European to travel to the Hawaiian](#) Islands when he sails past the island of Oahu.

1793 - One day after being convicted of conspiracy with foreign powers and sentenced to death by the French National Convention, [King Louis XVI is executed](#) by guillotine in the Place de la Revolution in [Paris](#).

## 1800s

July 11, 1804 - Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr meet in Weehawken, New Jersey for a duel. Hamilton deliberately fired his gun into the air, but Burr fired with intent to kill. Hamilton, fatally wounded, died in New York City the next day.

1804, December 2 - In Notre Dame Cathedral in [Paris](#), [Napoleon Bonaparte is crowned Napoleon I](#), the first Frenchman to hold the title of emperor in a thousand years.

1805, October 21 > In one of the most decisive naval battles in history, a British fleet under Admiral Lord Nelson defeats a combined French and Spanish fleet at the [Battle of Trafalgar](#), fought off the coast of [Spain](#).

1812, October 19 > One month after Napoleon Bonaparte's massive invading force entered a burning and deserted [Moscow](#), the starving French army has to [retreat from Russia](#).

April 11, 1814 - Napoleon Bonaparte, emperor of France and one of the greatest military leaders in history, [abdicates the throne](#), and, in the Treaty of Fontainebleau, is banished to the Mediterranean island of [Elba](#).

1815, April > Heavy [eruptions of the Tambora volcano](#) in [Indonesia](#) result in the deaths of almost 100,000 people.

1815, June 18 - Napoleon's army was crushed by the Duke of Wellington at [Waterloo](#).

1841 - During the First Opium War, [China cedes the island](#) of [Hong Kong](#) to the British with the signing of the Chuenpi Convention, an agreement seeking to end the first Anglo-Chinese conflict.

1848 - Karl Marx publishes *Communist Manifesto*.

1859, April 25 - [Ground broken](#) for [Suez Canal](#).

1859, November 24 > *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, a groundbreaking scientific work by British naturalist Charles Darwin, [is published](#) in England.

1881 > Artist [Pablo Picasso is born](#) in [Malaga, Spain](#).

1889, March 31 - [Eiffel Tower opens](#) in [Paris, France](#).

## 1900s

April 20, 1902 - Marie and Pierre [Curie successfully isolate radioactive radium](#) salts from the mineral pitchblende in their laboratory in Paris. Marie Curie was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize.

April 15, 1912 - The British ocean liner [Titanic sinks](#) into the North Atlantic Ocean about 400 miles south of [Newfoundland, Canada](#). The ship, which carried 2,200 passengers and crew, had struck an iceberg two and half hours before.

1917 > [Brazil](#) declares war on [Germany](#).

1917 > [Bolsheviks revolt in Russia](#); led by Bolshevik Party leader Vladimir Lenin, leftist revolutionaries launch a nearly bloodless coup d'État against Russia's ineffectual Provisional Government.

1922, November 26 - [Archaeologists enter tomb of King Tut](#).

1928, September 28 - Penicillin was discovered by Sir Alexander Fleming.

1933, January 30 - Adolf Hitler is named chancellor of Germany.

1936, July 18 - the [Spanish Civil War begins](#) as a revolt by right-wing Spanish military officers in Spanish Morocco and spreads to mainland Spain.

1944, January 27 - [Soviet forces break](#) the [Leningrad](#) siege line, ending the almost 900-day German-enforced containment of the city, which cost hundreds of thousands of Russian lives.

**1945**, April 30 - In a bunker under his headquarters in Berlin, Adolf [Hitler commits suicide](#) by swallowing a cyanide capsule and shooting himself in the head.

**1947**, November 29 - Despite Arab opposition, the [United Nations votes for the partition of Palestine](#) and the creation of an independent Jewish state.

**1948**, January 30 - Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the political and spiritual leader of the Indian independence movement, is [assassinated](#) in [New Delhi](#) by a Hindu extremist.

**1948**, May 14 - The State of [Israel](#) was proclaimed by Jewish Agency Chairman [David Ben-Gurion](#).

**1952**, February 6 - King George VI of Great Britain and Northern Ireland dies. Princess Elizabeth becomes queen.

**1953**, February 28 - [Cambridge University](#) scientists [James D. Watson and Francis H.C. Crick](#) announce that they have determined the double-helix structure of DNA, the molecule containing human genes.

**1956**, October 29 - [Israel invades Egypt](#); Suez Crisis begins

**1965**, January 24 - [Winston Churchill](#), the British leader who guided Great Britain and the Allies through the crisis of World War II, dies in London at the age of 90.

**1966**, January 19 - Indira [Gandhi becomes the first female prime minister](#) of India.

**1972**, January 30 - In [Londonderry, Northern Ireland](#), 13 unarmed civil rights demonstrators are shot dead by British Army paratroopers in an event that becomes known as "[Bloody Sunday](#)."

1979, January 7 - [Vietnamese troops seize](#) the Cambodian capital of [Phnom Penh](#), toppling the brutal regime of Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge.