

My Life Timeline

A life map is a visual time line. It traces key moments in your life from the time you were born until the present day. The events and experiences you draw in your life map can make great starting points for writing topics, particularly for personal writing.

Your Turn: Create your own life map.

1. Start your life map with the day you were born.
2. Record the dates of key moments in your life in time order.
3. Draw each event to help you remember it.
4. End your life map with the present day.
5. Pair-share in small group.

Some events you can include in your timeline are listed below

Birthplace and date of birth

First memory

First day of school in home country

Favorite teacher or subject

Time with extended family (grandparents, cousins)

Important cultural or religious celebration

Favorite place in home country

Learning a hobby or sport (soccer, dance, music, etc.)

Making a best friend

Saying goodbye to friends/family before moving

Preparing to move to the U.S.

Feelings before leaving (nervous, excited, sad)

The trip itself (first time on a plane, long drive, etc.)

Arrival in the U.S. (first impressions, weather, airport)

First night in a new home

First day of school in the U.S.

Learning English (first English word learned, ESL class)

Meeting new friends

Trying a new food

Getting lost or confused but learning something

Celebrating a U.S. holiday for the first time (Halloween, Thanksgiving)

Joining a school club or team

Helping someone else adjust

Getting a compliment or award at school

Video call or visit from family back home

A challenge you overcame

A time you felt proud of yourself

A person who inspires you

Something you've accomplished in the U.S.

Make a list of at least 10 events you will include on your timeline. Draw symbols or pictures to convey the importance and meaning of each event.

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