

# Understanding Timelines



# Measuring Time

- Historians organize the past to better understand past events
- Timeline= a tool
  - A line marked off with a series of events and dates
  - Used to put events in the order that they occurred
  - It can cover a day, a year, a decade (10 years), a century (100 years), a millennium (1,000 years), etc.
  - A period is a length of time singled out because of a specific event or an era

# Organizing Time

- Past is split into 2 parts
  1. Prehistory: time before humans invented writing
  2. History: refers to written history, which began about 5,200 years ago
- Throughout history, societies have used different calendars
  - Mayan and Aztecs used calendars for farming and religious purposes
  - Today the majority of the world uses the Gregorian calendar (365 day year)
  - Gregorian calendar is based on the movement of Earth around the sun

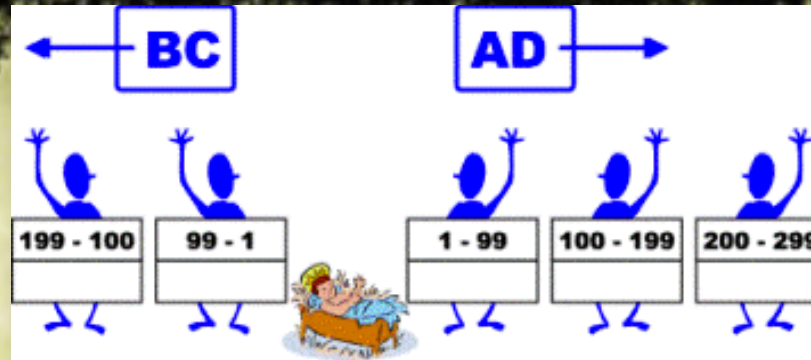
# How can we use timelines as a tool for studying history?

Fill in the blanks.

A Decade = \_\_\_\_\_ years

A Century = \_\_\_\_\_ years

A Millennium = \_\_\_\_\_ years



B.C or BCE. Also known as “Before Christ”

- It is also known as B.C.E. (Before the Common Era)
- These are the numbers to the left; number go up

A.D. or CE (from the Latin words Anno Domini-meaning “in the year of our Lord”)

- refers to the years from the birth of Christ up to the present.
- Instead of A.D, many historians now use C.E., meaning the “Common Era”.
- Numbers to the right; numbers increase

HOW SHOULD PRESENT TIME (AUGUST 22, 2015) BE IDENTIFIED?

B.C. OR A.D.?

# Timeline History

- BC/AD was not invented until several centuries after Jesus' death...525 years later.
- Developed by a Roman monk, Dionysius Exiguus
  - He wanted to make the birth of Jesus the dividing point of history.
  - He made a mistake in calculating Jesus' birth.
  - Jesus was technically born around 4-6 BC
  - The mistake is not a crucial issue because His birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection are turning points in history.
  - There is no year zero



Directions:

Create a timeline in your notes. Put the events & dates in chronological order from the earliest to the most recent.

500 B.C. Persian Wars begin

520 A.D. Mohammed the Prophet is born

1800 B.C. Hebrews migrate to Egypt

1291 A.D. Crusades end

1760 B.C. Shang Family rules China

2002/2003 A.D. YOU WERE BORN

## SAMPLE MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which groups of dates is arranged in correct chronological order?

- a. 123 B.C., 124 B.C., 18 B.C., 1985 A.D.
- b. 37 B.C., 38 B.C., 98 A.D., 1995 A.D.
- c. 557 A.D., 234 B.C., 56 A.D., 22 B.C.



# Practice Makes Perfect

- Use iPad to draw out how timeline works and watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFu-zMjGJJA>