Timelines

In math class, a number line has zero in the middle.

In social studies, a time line is similar, but we don't use + or - to show the sides, we use letters. The year zero marks the year (we think) Jesus was born.

Our calendar is called the **Gregorian Calendar**, and it is the year 2018. In the Jewish calendar, it is the year 5779, but in the Islamic calendar, it is the year 1440. The Romans had a calendar, but it was very confusing because it changed all the time. The Mayans had a calendar, but they only recorded the dates through our year 2012. All cultures have their own calendars, and they may have different numbers of months or even days than our calendar.

We use the Gregorian calendar today because it was used in Europe when Europeans started to colonize the rest of the world, and so it spread to most parts of the world.

People tend to make 2 big mistakes when they use timelines:

- 1. People forget to use math which confuses the year something happened with how many years ago it happened.
- 2. People forget that there is a difference between the year something happened and the century in which it happened.
- Remember to use math whenever you cross the zero line, or when switching between the number of years that have passed, and the year in which something happened.

If it happened 5,000 years ago, it happened in the year 2982 BC (5000 - 2018) If it happened 1,000 years ago, it happened in the year 1018 AD (2018 - 1000) If it happened in the year 400 BC, it happened 2418 years ago (2017 + 400)

- Remember that when we talk about centuries, we drop two decimal places, and add 1. A **century** is a period of 100 years. A **millennium** is a period of 1000 years.

The year 2018 is in the 21st century. (2018, drop 18 to get 20, add 1 to get 21st century) The year 413 was in the 5th century (413, drop 13 to get 4, add 1 to get 5th century) The year 1998 was in the 20th century. It will be the 22nd century in 2100.

History Vs. Prehistory

History is written. **Prehistory** includes all of the events before humans discovered writing. Writing developed in different ways in different places, but the earliest known writing is about 6,000 years old.

Quick and Dirty Timeline

5 billion years ago - the Earth formed
66 million years ago - the dinosaurs went extinct
100,0000 years ago - the first modern humans, Homo sapiens, developed
60,000 years ago - humans first migrated out of Africa
25,000 years ago - the beginning of the most recent ice age
17,000 years ago - humans migrated to the Americas
12,000 years ago - humans developed agriculture, and domesticated plants and animals
6,000 years ago - humans first migrated to the Mariana Islands.
2,000 years ago - humans first migrated to the Mariana Islands.
2,000 years ago - approximately when Jesus was born
500 years ago - approximately when the Americas were colonized

Rules for making and using Timelines

1. The space between years must be consistent. (/-/-/NOT/--/-///--/)

If you must skip a few years or change intervals, break the timeline. (1-2-3-4-//-10-20-30)
 Mark years in even, logical intervals. It does not matter if you place a mark on the timeline every year, every 5 years, or every 1,000 years BUT you must be consistent and match the purpose of the timeline.

For example:

A timeline of your life should not begin in 1800 and have 100 year intervals- you are not even 20 years old yet! A timeline of your life should have one mark every 6 months or every year, and include only the years you have been alive. A timeline of your life should fit one one piece of paper, and be evenly marked, like this: