Grade 6 - Warrior Extended Learning Packet
Soc. Studies

Lesson 1

Measuring Time

IT'S IMPORTANT:

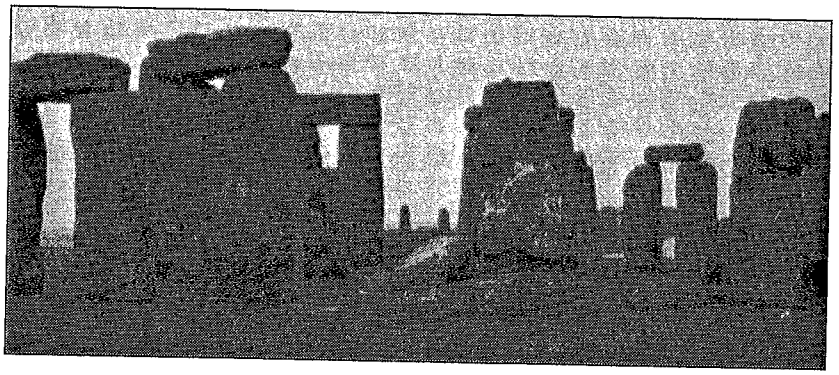
- Historical time is divided into periods of different lengths.
- Time lines help show the order of events and relationships between events.
- The years of the Common Era, in which we are living, are labeled C.E. or A.D., while years before the Common Era are labeled B.C.E. or B.C.

How many people do you know who are more than 80 years old? More than 90 years old? More than 100 years old? People older than 80 can remember when there were no computers, no television, no jet airplanes. In their lifetimes, such people have seen the world change faster than ever before. Still, even 100 years is a tiny fraction of the time humans have spent on Earth. Our first ancestors lived nearly 2 *million* years ago.

Even professional historians find it almost impossible to imagine that much time. To make the job easier, the long history of the world and its peoples has been divided into smaller parts. We can use **time lines** to show how closely or far apart in time events happened. Time lines also help us answer questions about how one historical event can cause another.

Periods of History

There are many different ways to divide historical time. The divisions of geological time are the longest. **Eons** are billions of years long. The first two eons of Earth's history stretch from the formation of the Earth until about 550 million years ago. During these eons, bacteria and primitive worms were the only life forms on Earth. We live in the third eon, which will probably go on for hundreds of millions of years. Eons are divided into **eras** according to huge changes in the kinds of life on Earth, and eras are divided into **periods**. Periods—such as the Jurassic Period, when huge dinosaurs walked the Earth—are tens of millions of years long. The smallest division of geological time is the **epoch**. Epochs are a few million years long. We live in the Holocene (*HO-lo-seen*) Epoch, which began around 11,500 years ago at the end of the last Ice Age.



Above: *Stonehenge, in southwestern England, was built between 5,000 and 3,500 years ago, and may have been a simple calendar: Some of the stones point to where the sun rises on June 21, the summer solstice.*

The time that humans have spent on the Earth is divided into **ages**. The longest human age was the **Stone Age**, which probably began around 2.5 million years ago when early humans began using stones as tools. About 5,000 years ago, people in Mesopotamia (now Iraq) began making tools from bronze, a combination of copper and tin. The **Bronze Age** lasted until sometime between 2,500 and 3,000 years ago, when people in Asia Minor (now Turkey) discovered iron, beginning the **Iron Age**. We are dependent on iron today. We use steel, which is purified iron combined with other metals, to make automobiles, beams for skyscrapers, tools, and many other things.

Historians also name periods of human history according to wars, styles of art, or technological inventions. The **Middle Ages** came between the defeat of the Roman Empire by Germanic tribes in 476 C.E. and the beginnings of modern Europe around 1500. The **Renaissance** was a period of tremendous growth and change in art and literature, beginning in the 1300s in Italy and lasting as late as the 1500s and early 1600s in northern Europe. The **Industrial Age** refers to the time from around 1750 to the present, in which the steam engine, the assembly line, and modern transportation brought many people from farms into cities to work in factories.

Quick Review 1: Some people say we are no longer living in the Industrial Age, but have moved into the Information Age. Do you agree or disagree? Explain your answer.

FAST FACT

The beginnings and endings of the Stone, Bronze, and Iron Ages are only approximate. For example, some native people of Australia and South America were still in the Stone Age (using stone tools) in the 1700s and 1800s. There are people on islands of the Pacific Ocean and in the Amazon rain forest of Brazil who are in the Stone Age today.

Getting Events in Order

Even when history is broken up into periods, it is difficult to remember everything that happened in a given period and in what order things happened. If you know a few important events from a period, or from a significant person's life, you will be able to find the information you don't know about that period or person more easily. The simplest arrangement of historical information is a list of dates.

Look at the following list of important events in the life of Thomas Jefferson.

1743 Born in central Virginia

1760 Enters College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia

1770 Begins construction of Monticello, a mansion on his Virginia estate

1779 Elected governor of Virginia

1785 Named minister (ambassador) to France

1801 Inaugurated third President of the United States

1809 Retires from office

1819 Founds University of Virginia

1826 Dies at Monticello

If you can remember even a few of the events on this list and their order, you can guess when an event not on the list occurred. You can also figure out what other events probably happened during the time covered by the list.

Quick Review 2: Between what years on the list of events in Jefferson's life did the following event most likely occur?

Jefferson became United States Secretary of State.

A. between 1760 and 1770
B. between 1770 and 1779
C. between 1785 and 1801
D. between 1809 and 1819

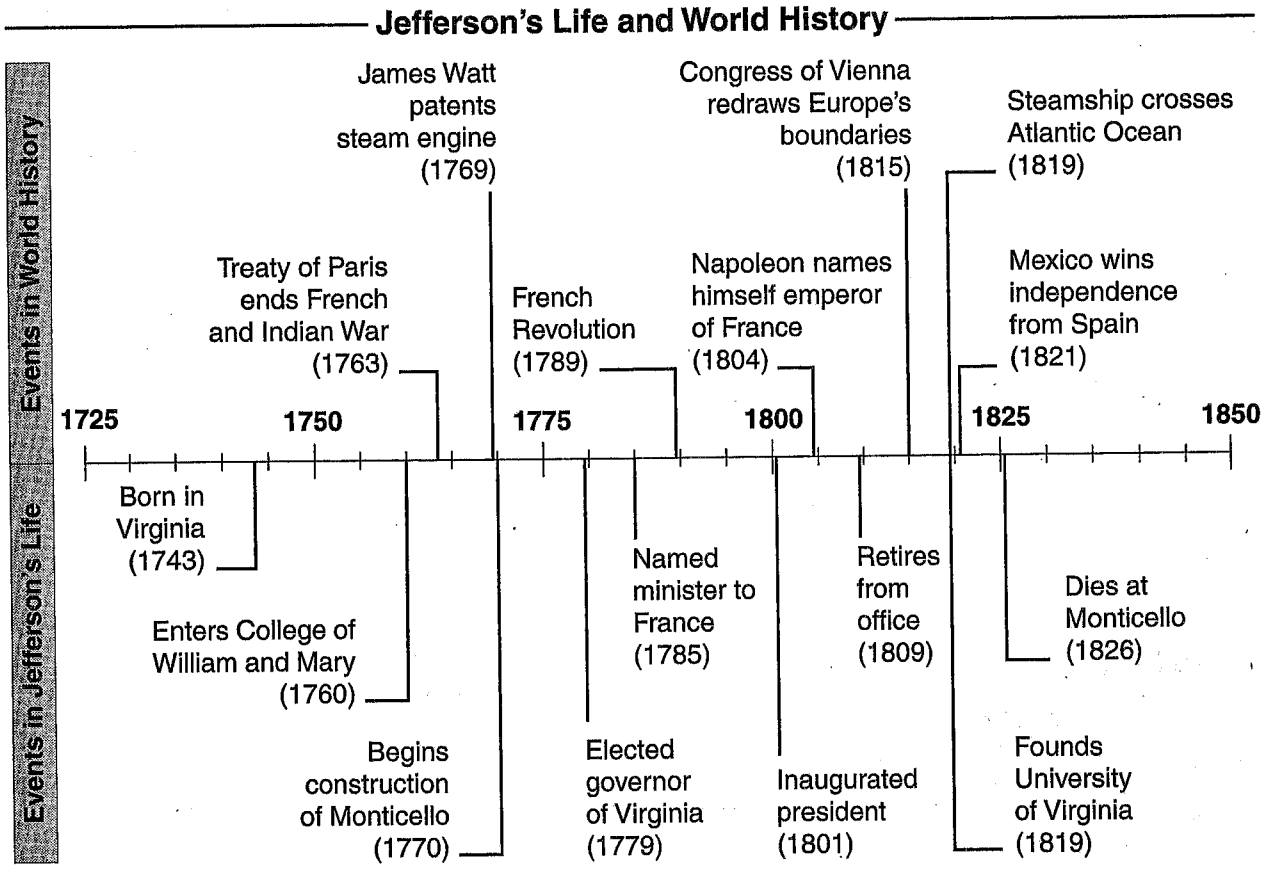
Which historical event took place during the same period in which Jefferson lived?

A. British colonists founded Jamestown, Virginia.
B. Rutherford B. Hayes was elected governor of Ohio for the first time.
C. John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth in space.
D. The Revolutionary War freed the colonists from Great Britain.

Time Lines

Time lines are really just number lines (like those you use in math class) on which the numbers are dates of events in history. Unlike a simple list of dates, a time line makes it easy to see how closely or far apart in time events occurred. Time lines with **multiple tiers** (two or more lists of related events) help you to see how two or more series of events are related. For example, a time line with one tier showing dates of a famous inventor's life and another tier showing important advances in science could help you understand how new scientific ideas helped the inventor design new technology.

Look at this multiple-tier time line showing important events in Thomas Jefferson's life and important events in world history.



Quick Review 3: What is the topic of the top tier of the time line?

_____

What is the topic of the bottom tier of the time line?

_____

Add the following events to the correct tiers of the time line.

1776 Jefferson writes the Declaration of Independence

1803 United States makes Louisiana Purchase from France

Centuries and Millenia

We are now living in the 21st **century**, the 100-year span between the years 2000 and 2100. Of course, written human history is much longer than 2,000 years. The calendar we use to name years, centuries, and **millenia** (spans of 1,000 years; a single 1,000-year span is a **millenium**) was established by the Christian church in Europe to measure time from the birth of Jesus Christ. The ancient church leaders named the years after the birth of Jesus ***anno Domini***, or "year of our Lord." Historians usually abbreviate this phrase **A.D.** So, the Declaration of Independence was written in A.D. 1776, and the Cincinnati Reds won the World Series in A.D. 1990.

What about the years before the birth of Jesus? Historians label those dates **B.C.** for "before Christ." So, Alexander the Great died in 323 B.C., having conquered lands from Greece to India. Augustus Caesar became the first Roman emperor in 27 B.C.

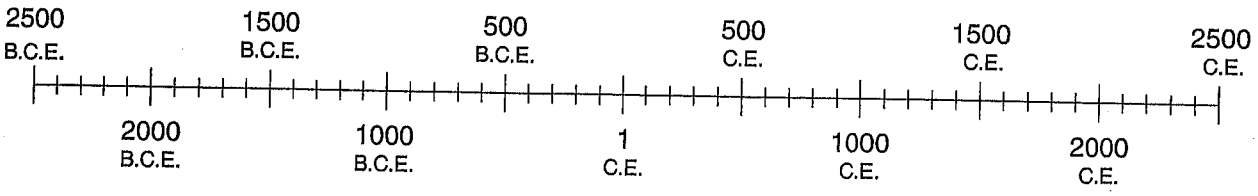
The "A.D." calendar has become the common calendar across the world for government and business, even though most of the world is neither Christian nor European. Many historians now use the phrase ***Common Era*** for this common calendar and label the years **C.E.** So, the Declaration of Independence was written in 1776 C.E., and the Cincinnati Reds won the World Series in 1990 C.E. (Notice that A.D. goes *before* the date, but C.E. goes *after* the date.)

FAST FACT

B.C. and B.C.E. dates get smaller as they get closer to the present. So, if you had been born in 270 B.C.E. and lived 70 years, you would have died in 200 B.C.E., *not* in 340 B.C.E., which actually would be 70 years before you were born!

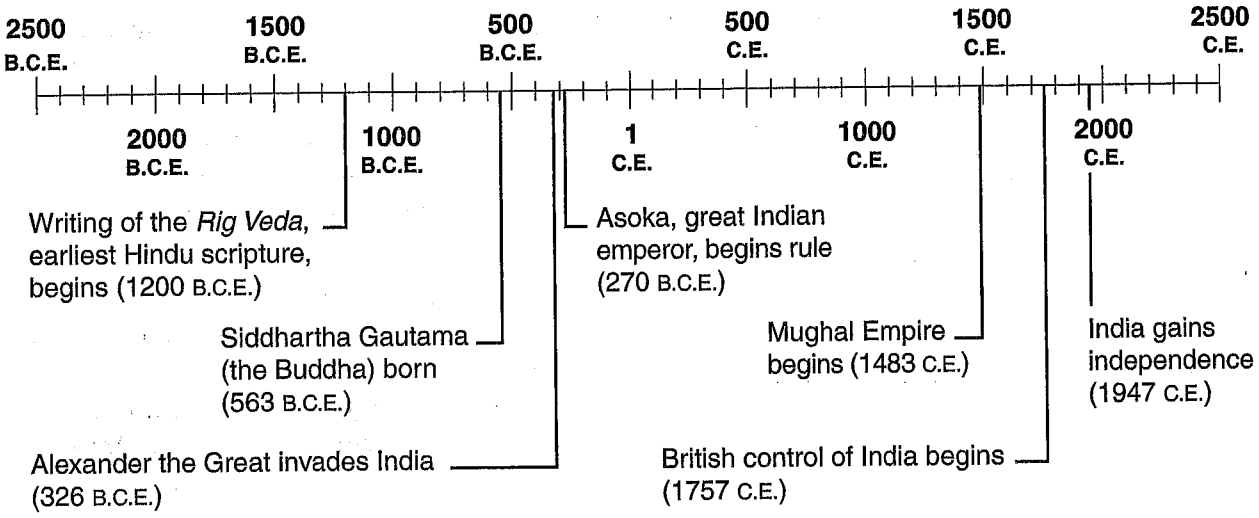
The years before the Common Era are called exactly that: "Before the Common Era," or **B.C.E.** So, Alexander the Great died in 323 B.C.E., having conquered lands from Greece to India. Augustus Caesar became the first Roman emperor in 27 B.C.E.

Here is a time line showing two and a half millenia (2,500 years) before the Common Era and two and a half millenia of the Common Era, for a total of five thousand years.



Notice that there is no "Year Zero." The first year of the Common Era is 1 C.E. The last year before the Common Era is 1 B.C.E.

Quick Review 4: Look at the time line below, then answer the questions that follow.



About how many centuries passed between Alexander the Great's invasion of India and the beginning of the Mughal Empire?

A. 18
B. 24
C. 28
D. 32

The great Indian emperor Asoka began ruling in 270 B.C.E. He ruled until his death 38 years later. When did he die?

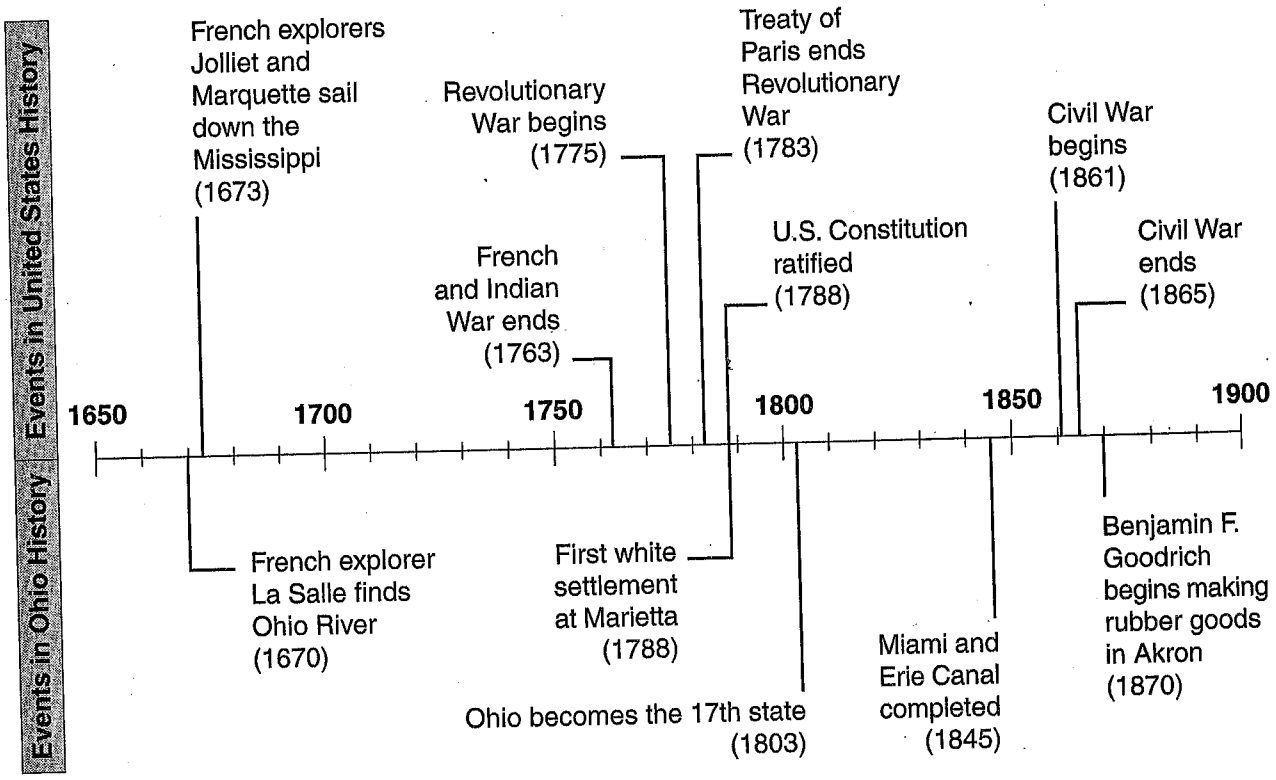
A. 308 B.C.E.
B. 232 B.C.E.
C. 38 C.E.
D. 270 C.E.

Why do you think there is no "Year Zero"?

Test Your Knowledge

Directions: Use the following time line and your knowledge of social studies to answer Numbers 1 through 3.

Events in Ohio and United States History



1. What do the two tiers of the time line suggest about Ohio before 1700?
   A. There were no humans in Ohio.
   B. Ohio was part of land claimed by France.
   C. French explorers began the Miami and Erie Canal.
   D. There were no significant events in Ohio before 1700.

2. The United States experienced great growth in industry after the Civil War. What event in Ohio history supports this fact?
   A. the completion of the Miami and Erie Canal
   B. the exploration of rivers by French explorers
   C. the admission of Ohio to the Union as the 17th state
   D. the start of rubber manufacturing in Akron

3. White people began settling Ohio about the same time as what important event?
   A. discovery of the Ohio River
   B. defeat of the British in the Revolutionary War
   C. ratification of the Constitution of the United States
   D. the admission of Ohio to the Union as the 17th state