

Timelines: Putting the Past in Order

Week 1 • Tuesday • Putting the Past in Order

Reading Time

Imagine your whole life drawn as one long line. At the start is the day you were born. Then come your first steps, your first words, and your first day of school. A line like this is called a **timeline**. It shows events in the order they happened.

Historians love timelines because they make the past easy to see. The oldest events go on the left, and the newest events go on the right. When we read a timeline from left to right, we travel through time!

Timelines can show a single day, one person's life, or thousands of years. Some events on history timelines happened so long ago that they came before your grandparents, before cars, and even before books were printed.

Reading Questions

1. What is a timeline?

2. Where do the oldest events go on a timeline?

3. Why do historians like using timelines?

Put These Events in Order

Number these events 1 to 5, from what happens FIRST to what happens LAST in a person's life.

Event	Order (1-5)
Learning to read chapter books	
Being born	
Taking your very first steps	
Starting 2nd grade	
Saying your first word	

Fill in the Blanks

timeline order left right events

1. A _____ shows events in the order they happened.
2. Things that happen are called _____.
3. The oldest events go on the _____ side of a timeline.
4. The newest events go on the _____ side of a timeline.
5. Timelines put the past in _____.

Make Your Own Life Timeline

You need: a pencil and your memory (a grown-up can help).

Fill in the table with four big events from your life, in order from oldest to newest.

When (your age)	What happened
Age 0	I was born!

Think About It

1. What event on your timeline is your favorite? Why?

2. What event do you hope to add to your timeline in the future?

Review

I learned...	Circle one
What a timeline is	YES / NOT YET
How to put events in order	YES / NOT YET