The Work of the Historian

How historians measure time
Today’s Lesson

In today’s lesson we will learn about how historians measure and use time to explain when things happened.

1. Explain what is meant by the word *chronology*.
2. Explain the terms: *BC, AD, Century, millennium, decade*.
3. Learn how to read a timeline.
Chronology

*kron-oll-o-gee*

- Chronology is putting events into the order in which they happened, oldest to youngest.
- Historians must be able to do this so that they can tell what happened in the correct way.
- Historians use dates to help them to do this and use a number of ways to measure time.
Measuring Time

- Most of the world measures time by saying that something happened either before or after the birth of Christ.
- To do this, they use the words BC (Before Christ).
- AD (Anno Domini—which means in the year of the Lord).
Measuring Time

- **Decades** (10 years) are used to explain if something happened tens of years ago.
- **Centuries** (100 years). The first century was began in the year 1AD. What century are we in now?
- **Millennium** (1000) years) is used to describe something that happened over a thousand years ago. What millennium are we in now?
Paired Work

Put these units of time in their correct order, starting with the smallest.

- Century
- Decade
- Hour
- Month
- Day
- Millenium
- Year
Timelines

Sometimes, historians use timelines to help them put things into their correct order.
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Born on January 15, 1929. Parents: The Reverend and Mrs. Martin Luther King, Sr.  
  Home: Atlanta, Georgia
- Martin joined the bus boycott after Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955.
- Visited India to study Mohandas Gandhi’s philosophy of nonviolence.
- Martin arrested in Birmingham, Alabama on April 12, 1963. He wrote his Letters from Birmingham Jail at this time.
- Dr. King was assassinated on the balcony of a motel in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968.
**Timeline**

Writers use timelines to plan a sequence chapter for their informational text.

Use the timelines below to show when things happen.

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**A Puppy is Born**

- **Week 2**: The puppy can open its eyes.
- **Week 4**: Begin to eat dog food.
- **Week 6**: Time for vaccinations.
- **Week 8**: A puppy can learn its name.
Make your own timeline

Create a basic timeline of your life so far. Include the following events:

1. When you were born.
2. Your first day at playschool/montessori.
3. The birth of your brother/sisters (if you have any).
4. When you got your pet (if you have one).
5. When you joined a club/team/scouts/band etc.
6. Your first day at primary school.
7. Your first day at secondary school.
8. Include dates where possible.