

## WORLD TIMELINE

40,000 B.C.	The species <i>Homo sapiens</i> (modern human beings) appears for the first time in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Australia. We think that we evolved in Africa and spread rapidly, replacing other types of Homo, such as <i>Homo neandertalensis</i> in Europe.
20,000 B.C.	Humans travel to North America from Asia, either by walking across Beringia (the land under the Bering Strait, which is exposed during ice ages) or by boat across the Bering Strait.
10,000 B.C.	People start farming in "the Fertile Crescent" (Mesopotamia, the Middle East, and Egypt) about this time. The beginning of farming is called the "Neolithic Revolution." The first towns are built.
4,000 B.C.	Agriculture starts in India.
4000- 3000 B.C.	In Mesopotamia, the first cities are built.
3,300 B.C.	Sumerians and Egyptians start to write.
2,500 B.C.	The Indus Valley civilization flourishes in India, with major cities at Mohenjo Daro and Harappa. It collapses about 1,500 B.C. Some people believe that Indo European people from the North destroyed it.
1,500 B.C.	The first Chinese farmers and the first Chinese writing (Shang Dynasty).
1250 B.C.	The Trojan War. This is only important because of Homer's poems about it, written 450 years later.
1000 B.C.	The Olmec civilization, the oldest in Mexico, begins. Later civilizations in the area, such as the Maya and Aztec, borrowed a lot from the Olmec, including their writing. The Maya and Teotihuacan cultures develop about 300 B.C. The Aztecs begin about 1,300 A.D. Maya civilization collapses for the last time about
1400 A.D.	Chavin culture, the first Peruvian civilization, begins. This begins a series of civilizations. The Inca civilization (1200-1532 A.D.) is the last of them.

800 B.C.	Homer composes the long poems The Iliad and The Odyssey about the Trojan War. These are the start of European literature. They were also a big part of the Greek and Roman religion. They were also considered to be the best poems ever written up to a couple of hundred years ago. By the way, Greeks didn't adapt the alphabet (a Phoenician invention) until 750 B.C.
400- 500 B.C.	The Fifth Century B.C. is the time that Greek civilization was at its best. Its art, science, and engineering were not matched again in Europe until the Renaissance. For example, the Parthenon (a beautiful temple in Athens) was built in 447 B.C.
509 B.C.	The Roman Republic begins. Rome wasn't an important city at the time, but watch out! It defeats the powerful Etruscan cities, then Carthage, then most of Europe, parts of the Middle East, and all of North Africa, including Egypt. In other words, it ruled all the lands around the Mediterranean.
147 B.C.	Rome rules Greece as the province of Macedonia.
7 B.C.	We think that this is the year that Christ was born. We think that he died about 30 A.D.
27 A.D.	The Roman Republic becomes the Roman Empire.
311 A.D.	Christianity becomes legal. Constantine later makes it the official religion. He then founded Constantinople in 324 A.D., and split the Roman Empire into Western and Eastern halves. The Eastern half becomes known as the Byzantine Empire.
476 A.D.	The Western Roman Empire ends. The "Dark Ages" begin and last for 500 years. Population shrinks, the culture declines.
1000 A.D.	The population starts to rise, and that is usually considered the start of the "Middle Ages." A new civilization is built up.
1400 A.D.	The Renaissance started in Italy and spread through Europe between 1400 and 1600. This is when European culture realized that it could finally do things as well as the old Greeks and Romans could.  The Age of Discovery starts.

	<p>The first book is printed.</p> <p>The Reformation starts.</p> <p>Exciting Times!</p>
1700 A.D.	<p>The Industrial Revolution begins. European empires spread worldwide.</p>
1914- 1918 A.D.	<p>The First World War. It weakened Europe so much that its empires and its faith in progress weakened. Russia becomes "the Soviet Union" (the first communist country) near the end of the war.</p>
1939- 1945 A.D.	<p>The Second World War destroys the system of empires, except for the Soviet Union. For example, India became a country in 1947.</p>
1945- 1982 A.D.	<p>The "Cold War." The two strongest countries left in the world, the United States and the Soviet Union, compete to control the world. Each has enough atomic weapons to destroy every person in the world several times, and many people believe that a third world war, the war that would kill everyone, is inevitable.</p>