

Discovering the Ancient Past



Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
chronology	
timeline	<i>a visual representation of the passage of time in a linear fashion</i>
artifact	
primary source	<i>a document or physical object written or created during the time period being examined</i>
secondary source	
manuscript	
credible	
bias	<i>to have a preference for or against one person or group, especially in a way considered to be unfair</i>

Objective

In this lesson, you will _____.

Using Chronology to Study History

Different cultures often use different ways to measure _____ and _____ events.

Studying the ways in which past cultures measured _____ helps us to better understand those cultures.

How People See Time

Some ways ancient civilizations kept time:

- by noting the changes in _____
- by noting the movement of the _____, moon, and _____

Most ancient civilizations depended on _____ and knowing when the seasons would change helped them to plan which _____ to plant and when to move _____.

Ancient Calendars

Fill in the list of examples of ancient calendars.

- **The Maya Calendar:** *consisted of three interconnected calendars to make one annual calendar*
- **The Roman Calendar:** *lunar calendar based on the phases and cycle of the moon*
- **The Chinese Zodiac:**
- **The Labors of the Months:**
- **The Hindu Calendar:** *follows the lunar cycle where one year contains 12 months*

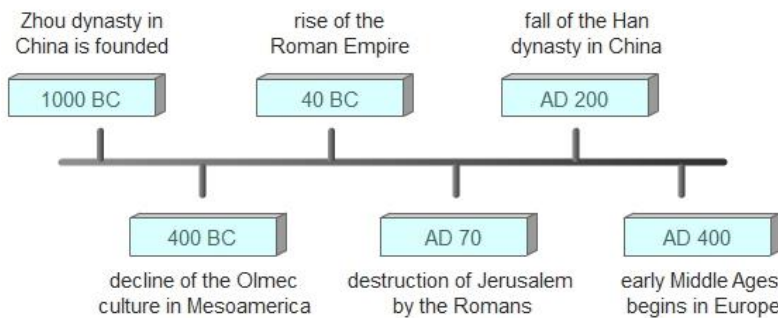
Timelines and Chronology

Historians use chronology to note how _____ developed over time and _____ to compare how certain changes occurred in relation one another.



Question

Study the timeline, and then complete the sentences that follow.



From the left to the center of the timeline, the numbers followed by BC:

increase. decrease. remain the same.

From the center of the timeline to the right the numbers preceded by AD:

increase. decrease. remain the same.



Question

Enter the correct date into each box on the timeline, based on when each event occurred in history.

7000 BC the Peiligang culture begins in China

AD 250 the Kofun period begins in Japan

AD 40 the Old English period begins

6000 BC the rise of ancient Egyptian empire



Talking about Historical Time

Term	Description
date	<i>a specific day</i>
decade	
	<i>100 years</i>
millennium	
epoch/era/age	<i>used to describe long-lasting events with start and end dates that are difficult to pinpoint; e.g., the Neolithic era, the Middle Ages</i>
empire	
	<i>a line of rulers in the same family; e.g., China's Zhou dynasty</i>
kingdom	

Historical Sources





Primary Sources



Primary sources originated or were _____ during the period being studied.

Types of primary sources:

- *letters,*
- *diaries, autobiographies, and memoirs*
-
- *business records, contracts, and wills*
- *written laws and other government documents*
-

Artifacts That Serve as Primary Sources			
Art and Architecture 			
Everyday Objects 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>paintings</i> • • • <i>architectural advancements</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • <i>other surfaces</i> 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>vases and pots</i> • • <i>jewelry</i> • <i>tapestries and fabrics</i> • • 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>stamps</i> • <i>axes</i> • 	

Understanding Primary Sources

When studying primary source writing and artifacts, historians ask questions like those that follow.

Written Documents

- *What kind of document is it?*
-
- *Who wrote it?*
- *What does the document tell us? Does it tell a story or simply express the writer's thoughts or feelings?*
- *Was the document created to communicate thoughts and ideas about religion or philosophy?*
-

Artifacts

- *Is it an art piece or did it have a specific use?*
-
- *What is it made of?*

Secondary Sources



A secondary source is information about a historical period that is created after that period has _____.

Common secondary sources:

_____ biographies of historical figures _____ articles in historical journals _____

Decide whether each source is a primary source or a secondary source.

- | | | |
|---|---------|-----------|
| ➤ writing from an ancient civilization stating its laws | primary | secondary |
| ➤ maps about a historical time created recently | primary | secondary |
| ➤ a documentary | primary | secondary |
| ➤ an article in a history journal | primary | secondary |
| ➤ an ancient seal | primary | secondary |
| ➤ human bones | primary | secondary |

Evaluating and Interpreting Sources



Evaluating involves making a judgment about a source's _____.

Historians evaluate a source is by determining if it is _____.

Authenticating Primary Sources



Authentication is the process of proving something is true or _____.

- involves proving that a _____ source comes from time period being studied

Professionals at Work

Professionals Who Help Historians	Description of Job
museum curator	<i>in charge of a museum's collections and sometimes specializes in a particular collection</i>
archaeologist	
anthropologist	<i>studies physical human remains and human culture and helps historians understand how an artifact relates to the civilization in which it belongs</i>
archivist	

Evaluating Published Manuscripts

Historians often have to rely on copies or photos of primary sources published in _____, magazines, and on _____ websites. To authenticate copied primary sources, historians check who _____ and translated the copy.

? Question Fill in the profession that matches each description.

a person who can help researchers locate useful materials



a person who maintains and manages collections of historical documents



a person who is in charge of the final content in a book, newspaper, or magazine



Bias in Historical Sources

To be credible, historians must avoid _____.

? Question Choose the correct elements to be included in the checklist for detecting bias.

The author's personal online blog has a large number of followers.

The author uses several examples or details to support a conclusion.

The author uses primary sources that have been published more than 10 years ago.

The author doesn't show strong signs of like or dislike toward a particular topic.

The author lists a number of primary sources.

Other sources agree with the author.

Summary

Why is understanding the differences between types of sources important to understanding history?