

Ancient Civilization Timeline

– *Greeks, Romans, Mesoamerican (Aztecs, Mayans, Olmecs, and Incas)* –

Timeline Scale: 10 cm = 100 years
 1 cm = 10 years
 1 mm = 1 year

EXAMPLE: 679 BC -- at the 600 BC mark – go left 7 cm and 9 mm
 843 AD – at the 800 AD – go right 4 cm and 3 mm

DIRECTIONS:

PART ONE –

Set Up of Greek/Roman part of Timeline:

- 1) USE the 2 sheets of paper given & fold in half the LONG ways (hotdog style).
- 2) Tape papers (end to end – NO overlapping) so the folds match up.
- 3) Use a ruler to draw a straight line along the fold.
- 4) Make a vertical (up and down) hash mark about 1 cm in from the LEFT edge on the line.
- 5) Mark the hash mark with 800 BC.
- 6) From that mark, measure 10 centimeters and place a hash mark & LABEL with the 100 increments.
- 7) Repeat #6 until you get down to 0
- 8) ADD a key (legend) to indicate EACH color of the civilization.
- 9) Use the timeline scale above to begin marking time periods, dates, and events.

REMEMBER:

- Time periods should be marked with brackets AND labeled with period name.
- Events should have date & description of event.
- Everything to the left of the 0 is BC and everything to the right is AD.
- EACH civilization should have lines marked with a DIFFERENT color and add to key.

Greek Archaic Period (800 BC - 480 BC)

- **776 BC** - The **first Olympic Games** takes place. The games would take place every 4 years in honor of the Greek god Zeus.
- **757 BC** - **First Messenian War** begins - war between **Sparta and Messenia** that will last many years.
- **650 BC** - The Greek **Tyrants come into power. Cypselus – 1st Tyrant of Corinth.**
- **621 BC** - A lawyer named **Draco introduces strict new laws in Athens** that are punishable by death -- called **Draconian laws**.
- **600 BC** - The **first Greek coins** are introduced.
- **570 BC** - **Pythagoras is born.** He will make major advances in science, math, and philosophy - **Pythagorean Theorem**
- **508 BC** - **Democracy** is introduced in Athens by **Cleisthenes** - "**Father of Athenian Democracy**" - one of the great accomplishments of the Greek culture.

Greek Classical Period (480 BC - 323 BC)

- **490 BC** - The Greeks fight the Persians in the **Greek/Persian Wars**. Two famous battles are the Battle of Marathon in 490 BC and the Battle of Salamis in 480 BC. The Greeks win and the Persians retreat.
- **468 BC** - **Sophocles begins to write plays** for the theatre. Soon the theater becomes a very popular form of entertainment in Greece.
- **432 BC** - The **temple to Athena, the Parthenon, is completed** in Athens on the Acropolis. Today this is the most famous surviving building of Ancient Greece.
- **431 BC** - The **wars between Sparta and Athens** begin. They are called the **Peloponnesian Wars**. The wars will last 27 years with Sparta eventually conquering Athens in 404 BC.
- **399 BC** - The famous **Greek philosopher Socrates is put to death** for corrupting the youth of Athens with his teachings.
- **386 BC** - **Greek philosopher Plato founds the first institution of higher learning in the western world - Academy**.
- **336 BC** - **Alexander the Great becomes king** when his father, Philip of Macedon is assassinated.
- **333 BC** - **Alexander begins his conquests and defeats the Persians**.
- **332 BC** - **Alexander conquers Egypt and expands empire**

Greek Hellenistic Period (323 BC - 146 BC)

- **323 BC** - The Hellenistic period begins when **Alexander the Great dies - Ancient Romans start to gain power**.
- **300 BC** - **Euclid**, a Greek mathematician, **writes Elements**.
- **146 BC** - **Rome conquers Greece** making it part of the Roman Empire.

ROMAN (BELOW LINE) - mark lines with a different color

- 753 BC – Roman is founded (Romulus and Remus)
- 509 BC – Rome became a republic
- 449 BC – Laws of the Twelve Tables – codes of law
- 45 BC - Julius Ceasar – 1st Roman dictator
- 27 BC – Roman empire begins – Augustus (1st emperor)
- 64 AD – Nero burns most of Rome and blames Christians
- 80 AD – Colosseum was built
- 306 AD – Constantine becomes emperor – Rome becomes a Christian empire
- 380 AD – Christianity sole religion
- 395 AD – Theodosius splits Rome (Eastern & Western)
- 410 AD – Visigoths takes Rome – 1st time in 800 yrs Rome falls to enemy
- 476 AD – End of the Western Roman Empire – Augustus is defeated by German Goth Odoacer

PART TWO: MESOAMERICA

Set Up of Greek/Roman part of Timeline:

1. Attach (tape) 1 sentence strip (blue line equal to your drawn line) on the left side of the Greek and Roman timeline AND 2 strips on the right end of timeline.
2. Start at the 800 BC hash mark on the Greek/Roman part of timeline and measure (to the left) 10 cm increments, place hash mark, until you get to 1400 BC – label each hash mark
3. Start at your 100 AD has mark on the Greek/Roman part of the timeline and measure (to the right) 10 cm increments, place a hash mark, until you get to 1600 AD – label each hash mark
4. Add the dates and events below for each civilization. Be sure to color each “event line marker” with a different color and add color identification to the timeline key.

INCA (ABOVE LINE)

- 1200 AD – Inca 1st settle in S. America & Manco Capac (1st ruler); record-keeping system developed
- 1438 AD – Expanding land was divided into quarters (Sapa Inca)– ruled by a governor
- 1471 AD – Topa Inca takes over and expands empire 2500 miles
- 1525 AD – Civil War starts to determine ruler
- 1532 AD – Spaniards come, captures & ransoms Inca ruler for gold then kills him
- 1544 AD – Manco Inca (current leader) rebels against Spaniards & is killed – land now ruled by Spain

MAYAN (BELOW LINE)

- 300 BC – cities start to develop
- 100 BC – city-states appear
- 50 BC – pyramid temples begin
- 219 AD - 1st Royal Dynasty – Yax Moch Xoc becomes 1st king of Tikal
- 300 AD – society booms
- 822 AD – mysterious decline in populations
- 1441 AD – Northern cities abandoned due to a revolt against leader
- 1524 AD – Spanish conquer the land

AZTECS (BELOW LINE)

- 600 AD – 1st arrive in Mexico
- 1350 AD – water transportation built
- 1390 AD – Building of the Templo Mayor (Great Temple) begins
- 1431 AD – Triple Alliance is formed – ended war
- 1440 AD – Montezuma I becomes king
- 1487 AD – Templo Mayor finished
- 1492 AD – Christopher Columbus lands in New World (bringing other explorers)
- 1502 AD – Montezuma II king (most famous king)
- 1517 AD – comet seen in sky warned of upcoming doom
- 1519 AD – Cortes ships land on Yucatan peninsula
- 1520 AD – Cortes made alliance with Aztec enemies & starts war
- 1521 AD – End of Aztecs - Montezuma II king killed and Spanish took control of land

OLMECS (BELOW LINE)

- 1500 BC – 1st civilization in Americas develops – called themselves Xi
- 1400 BC - discovers rubber/ creates ball for game – now known as the “rubber people”
- 1200 BC – most important/powerful civilization in Mesoamerica
- 900 BC – San Lorenzo revolt/invasion – began losing power
- 400 BC – population drops and die out