

All about History: Units of Time

The word history translates “to know and to see” in the Greek language. History includes all the events that happened in the past, from yesterday to millions of years ago.

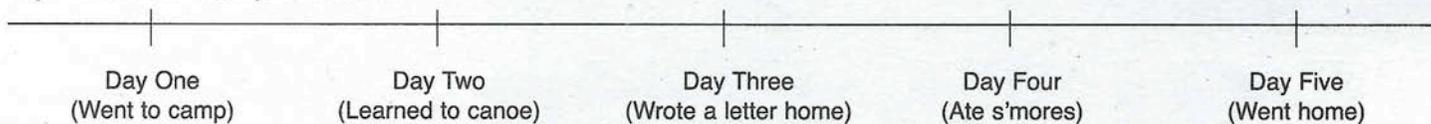
One way to understand history is to think about it using timelines to chart events of the past. Timelines always use equal or very similar divisions of time. For example, if a timeline includes only one day, or a 24-hour period, it might divide that time into groups of three hours. This kind of timeline would list the following times: 6 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m., 6 p.m., 9 p.m., midnight, and 3 a.m.

Depending on the purpose of the timeline, it's important to keep the time groupings simple. Let's review some other units of time and some examples of how to divide them into smaller groupings of time for use on timelines:

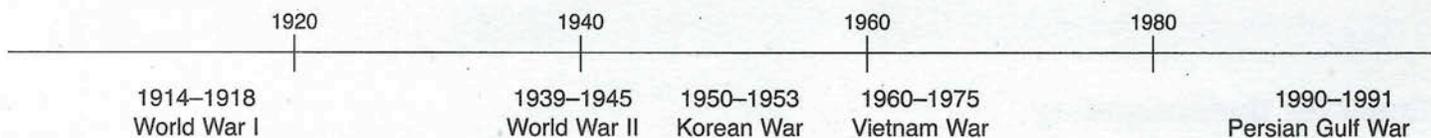
1 year	365 days; or 12 months, or 4 quarters (of 3 months each)
1 decade	10 years; or five 2-year periods, or two 5-year periods
1 century	100 years; or 10 decades, or five 20-year periods, or four 25-year periods
1 millennium	1,000 years; or ten 100-year periods, or four 250-year periods, etc.

A good timeline always has a title, similar or equal units of time, and events that describe what has happened over a period of time. Here are some samples:

My Week at Camp Timeline



20th Century U.S. Wars Timeline



Check for Understanding

Create a timeline of your day using hours.

Create a timeline of your life using years.
