

Historical Fiction

Time Line

GUIDELINES

Objective: Students research the time period their book was set in and create a time line showing historical events that occurred during that era.

Historical fiction lends itself well to research projects such as this. Reading a book of this genre helps students become more interested in the historical events of the time period in which the story was set. In addition, as students research the time period, they will gain a better understanding of the story.

It is important that students correctly identify the time period in which their book was set before they begin this project. Check students' work on step 2 to make sure they have written the correct time period. Students then begin research to determine which important events they would like to include.

After they have taken some preliminary notes, they should again meet with you to narrow or expand their time frames. If a student's book is set during one year, the student might show five to ten years on their time line. If a student's book spans 50 years, the student might show 15 to 25 years. The amount of time shown also depends on how much happened during that time period. If many important events occurred within a short period of time, students should make their time frames shorter (and vice versa).

Discuss the types of events students might include on their time lines. As a group, brainstorm a list of categories and write them on the board. The list might include the following:

- ✧ politics
- ✧ economics
- ✧ exploration
- ✧ inventions and technology
- ✧ famous people (accomplishments, dates of birth and death)
- ✧ sports and entertainment
- ✧ civil rights
- ✧ women's rights
- ✧ space travel

Encourage students to include some fun facts as well, such as the invention of the Hula-Hoop. These should be in addition to the ten important events.

Show students how to position large sheets of white paper horizontally and then cut across them. This will create long strips of paper that can be attached end to end. To make their time lines visually appealing, students should include illustrations and other decorations. The time lines should be colorful, informative, and easy to read.

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After you finish your book of historical fiction, you will research the time period in which your book is set. Based on your research, you'll then make a time line to show at least ten important events that occurred during that time period.

DUE DATES
Book approved _____
Book finished _____
Project finished _____

MATERIALS

large sheets of white construction paper (cut in half to create long, horizontal strips), markers or colored pencils

DIRECTIONS

- 1 Find a book of historical fiction that interests you and is at an appropriate reading level for you. Have your book approved by your teacher.

Book Title: _____

Author: _____

- 2 Look through the book and determine when it was set. If it does not tell you the exact years, look up the dates of historical events that occurred in the book. Write the time period here, and briefly describe how you found out. Have your teacher check this step before you continue.

- 3 You will create a time line about the period of time in which your book was set. Your time line should include at least ten important events, including any historical events that were mentioned in the book. Research this time period using the Internet, reference books, and other resources. Take notes on important events and the dates they happened.

Name: _____ Date: _____

4 Now that you are more knowledgeable about the time period, choose an exact time frame for your project. Discuss the time frame with your teacher before you continue. If many important events occurred during a short period of time, your time frame should be shorter. If not as many events occurred, your time frame should be longer.

5 Sketch a rough draft of your time line. You should write one or two complete sentences for each event on the time line. Write your rough draft on the lines below. Add illustrations and other decorations to make your time line eye-catching and colorful.

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

- 4. _____

- 5. _____

- 6. _____

- 7. _____

- 8. _____

- 9. _____

- 10. _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Book Title: _____

	POSSIBLE POINTS	POINTS EARNED
1 Was your book approved on time?	5	
2 Did you hand in your project on time?	10	
3 Did you have a teacher check the dates in step 2?	5	
4 Did you have a teacher approve the span of time you covered?	5	
5 Did you include at least ten important events on your time line?	25	
6 Did you write one or two complete sentences about each event?	15	
7 Is your time line neat, colorful, and easy to read?	15	
8 Did you include illustrations?	10	
9 Are the spelling, punctuation, and grammar correct?	10	

Comments: _____

