

Timelines: Before, After & How Long Ago

Use timelines and time vocabulary to order events and reason about change.

LEARN • PRACTISE • CREATE • REFLECT

Original BrightPencil Kids resource - adult-led where appropriate

A4 edition • 12 purposeful pages • review copy

Print. Learn. Grow.

Grown-up guide

Learning objective

Use timelines and time vocabulary to order events and reason about change.

Use this pack well

- Model the first example aloud, then let the learner try.
- Ask “How do you know?” more often than “Are you finished?”.
- Use real objects, talk, movement or observation when the activity suggests it.
- Stop or shorten the session if attention or enjoyment drops.
- Open-ended pages can have many successful answers.

Quality note

This resource was written originally for BrightPencil Kids. Curriculum sources informed scope and progression only; no third-party worksheet or story text is reproduced.

Learn the idea

1 Timelines place events in chronological order.

2 Dates and sequence words provide evidence about order.

3 A timeline can show duration as well as sequence.

Talk about it

Explain one idea in your own words. Give an example from real life, a drawing or an object if that helps.

Order five fictional events by year.

Place “before”, “after” and “between” into timeline sentences.

Calculate informally how many years separate two dates within a small range.

Spot an impossible timeline where an event is placed before its stated date.

Explain one way a timeline is different from a story paragraph.

Try it beyond the page

Real-world / hands-on connection

Make a non-private timeline of a familiar public topic such as a plant growing over four weeks or stages of a school project.

Before you finish

What did you notice?

What evidence, object or example helped you?

What would you change if you tried again?

Create something

Your project

Create a six-event timeline for an invented museum exhibition and add two evidence labels.

Use this space for planning, drawing, mapping, designing or notes.

CHALLENGE

Think deeper

1. What does chronological mean?

2. Why are dates useful on a timeline?

3. Can two events happen in the same year?

Quick review

1. In one sentence, explain the big idea of “Timelines: Before, After & How Long Ago”.

2. Draw or write one example that shows you understand.

3. Choose one activity from this pack and explain the strategy you used.

4. Write one question you still have.

Answer & discussion notes

Use these as guidance, not scripts. Open questions can have different successful responses when the reasoning is sensible and evidence-based.

1. Suggested response

In time order.

2. Suggested response

They help establish and compare when events occurred.

3. Suggested response

Yes.

Review before publication

Check age fit, factual accuracy, clarity, accessibility, rights provenance and whether the activity works in practice. This file remains a review copy until those checks are signed off.

FINISH

My learning reflection

I finished this BrightPencil learning pack.

One thing I understand better now:

A strategy that helped me:

Something I created or noticed:

My next small question or goal:

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