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INTRODUCTION TO HISTORY-PART-1

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A collection of historical artifacts is displayed on the left side of the slide. It includes a portion of a wooden chessboard with a checkered pattern and several chess pieces. Two medals are visible: one with a red ribbon and a star-shaped emblem, and another with a blue ribbon and a star-shaped emblem. A small, round, silver-colored compass is located at the bottom left. A quill pen with a wooden handle and a metal ferrule is positioned diagonally across the center. The background is a light, textured surface.

INTRODUCTION TO HISTORY PART-1

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What is History?

- A chronological record of significant events.
- A study of the events of the past, how and why they happened, as well as what happened as a result
- A branch of knowledge that records and explains past events
- ◆ The history of historical study and the important debates occurring in the field

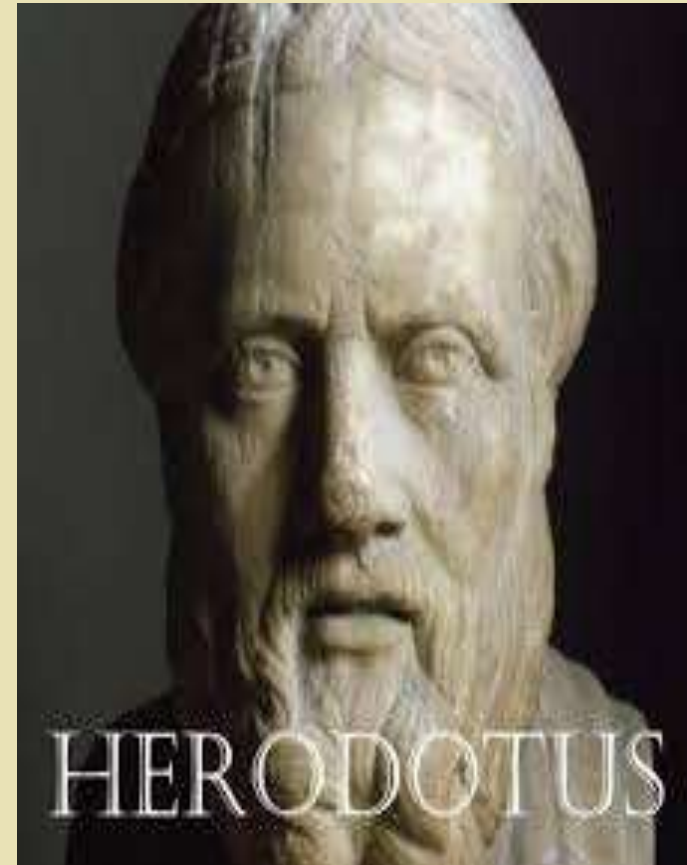


The Term - History

- ◆ The short version is that the term *history* has evolved from an ancient Greek verb that means “to know,” .
- ◆ The Greek word *historia* originally meant inquiry, the act of seeking knowledge, as well as the knowledge that results from inquiry.

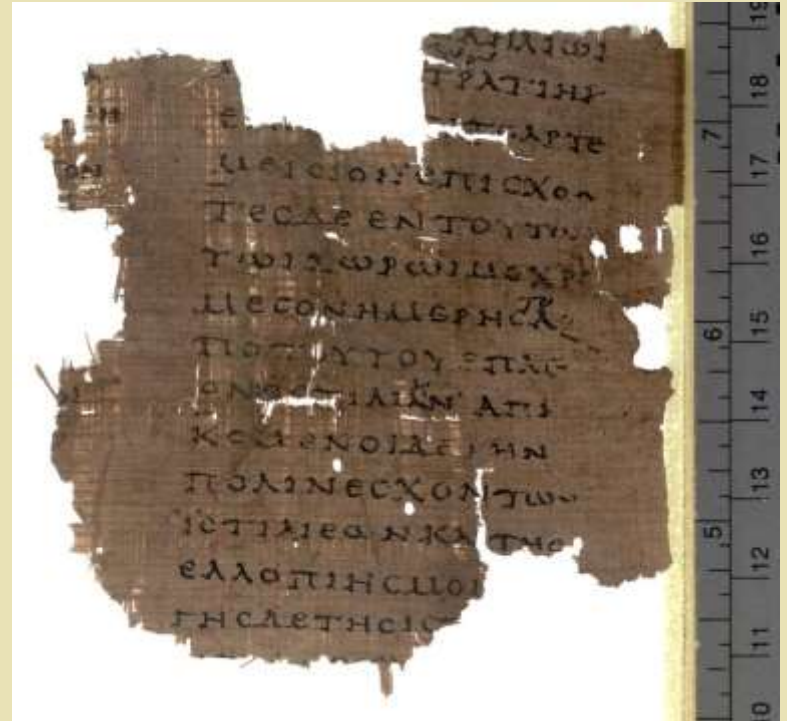
Father of History

- ◆ He was a Greek historian born in Halicarnassus in the Persian Empire (c. 484–c. 425 BC), a contemporary of Thucydides, Socrates.
- ◆ He is often referred to as "The Father of History", a title first conferred by Cicero; he was the first historian known to have broken from Homeric tradition to treat historical subjects as a method of investigation—specifically, by collecting his materials systematically and critically, and then arranging them into a historiographic narrative.



Works

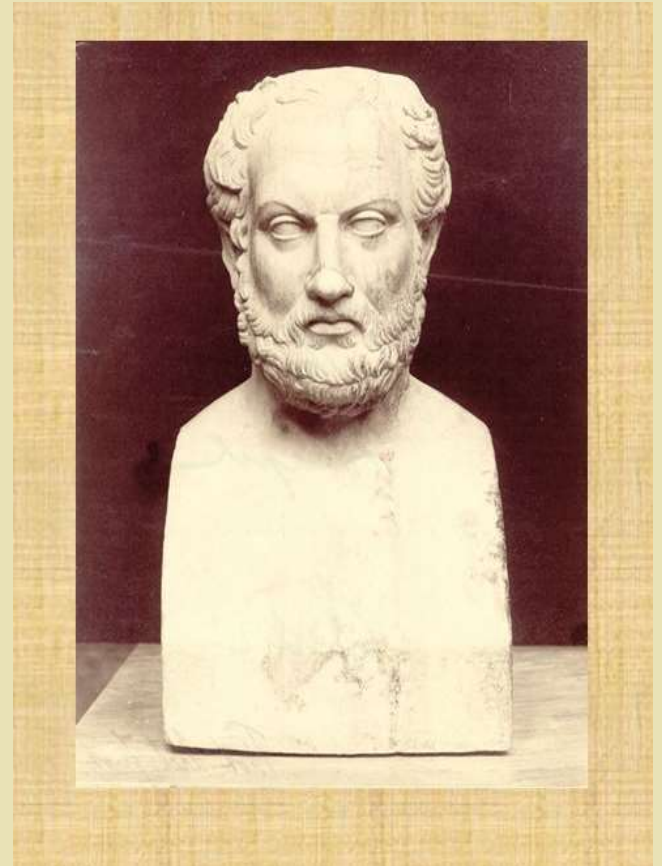
- ◆ “The Histories” a.k.a The History -440 BC



Father of Scientific History

- ◆ **Thucydides.**

... **Thucydides** has been dubbed the **father of "scientific history"** by those who accept his claims to have applied strict standards of impartiality and evidence-gathering and analysis of cause and effect, without reference to intervention by the deities, as outlined in his introduction to his work.



Works

- ◆ The History of the Peloponnesian War



What is History?

“History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illuminates reality, provides guidance in daily life, and brings us tidings of antiquity.”

Cicero



What is History?



Edward Gibbon (1737-1794)

“History is, indeed, little more than the register of the crimes, follies and misfortunes of mankind.”

Edward Gibbon

What is History?

“History is a myth
we all agree to
believe.”

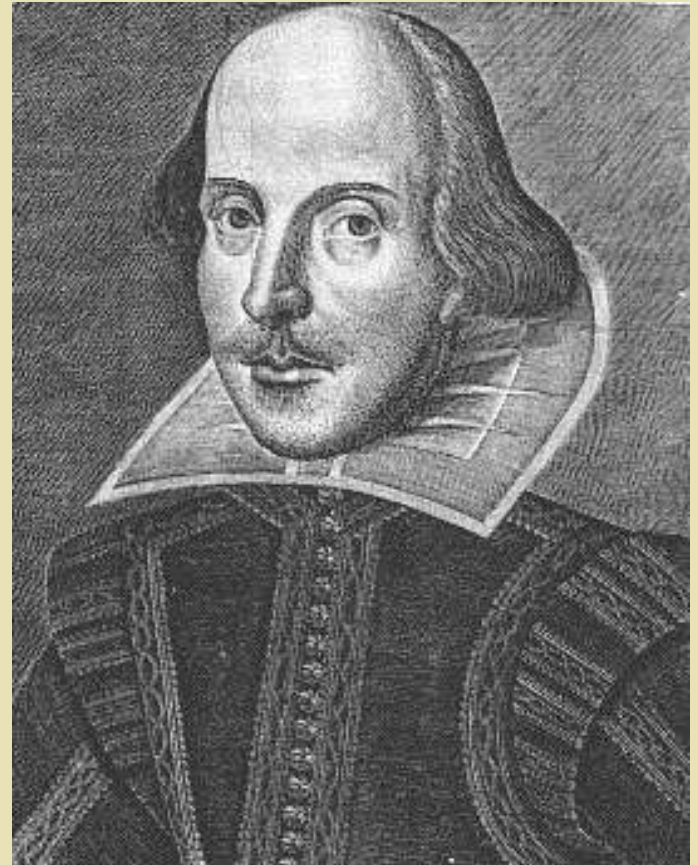
Napoleon



Why Study History?

“What is past is
prologue.”

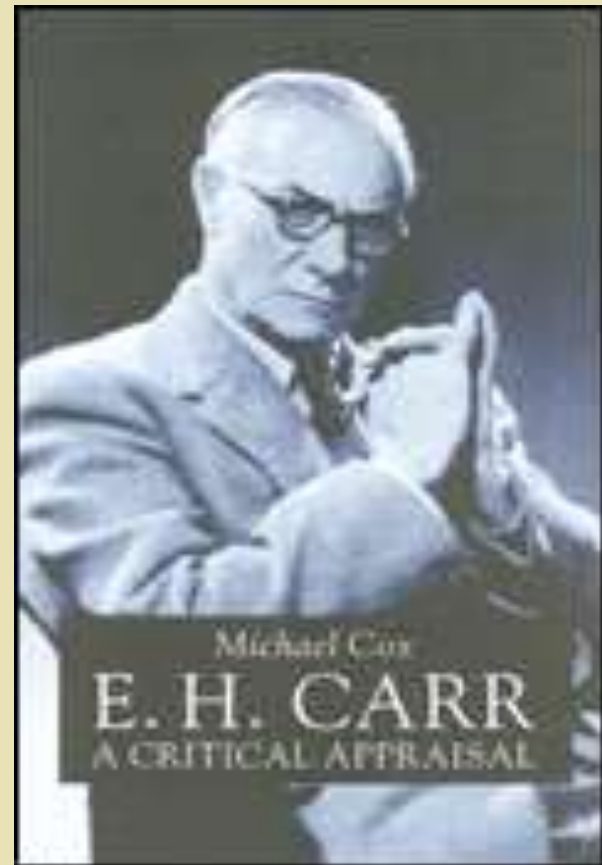
William Shakespeare



Why Study History?

“The function of the historian is neither to love the past nor to emancipate himself from the past, but to master and understand it as the key to the understanding of the present.”

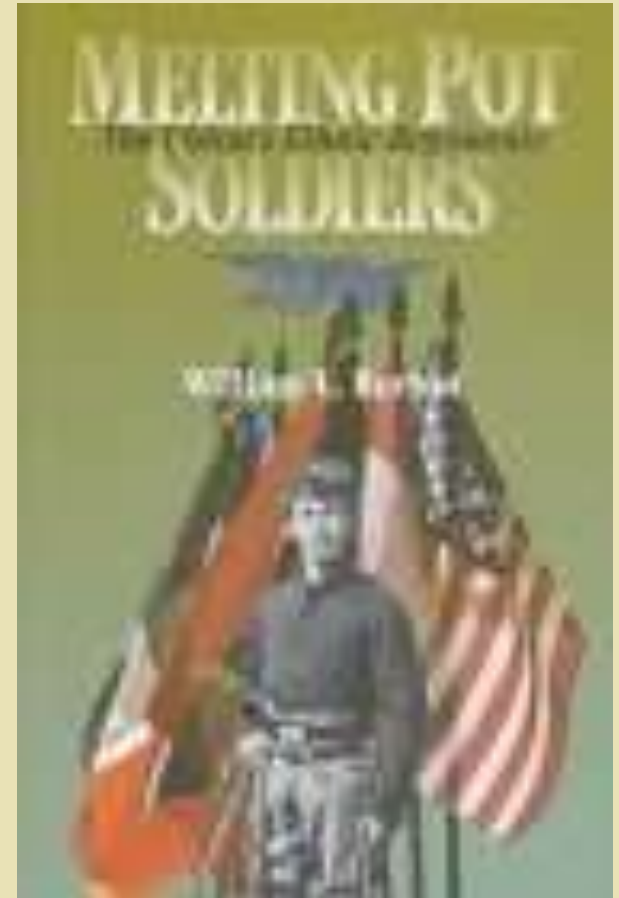
E.H. Carr



Why Study History?

“If you do not like the
past, change it.”

William L. Burton



Historiography



- ◆ Historiography is the writing of history.
- ◆ It is what historians do.
- ◆ Historians vary widely in what they feel is significant and important about the past.



Historiography

- ◆ Students of history must examine not only the past, but those who write about it.
 - “Study the historian before you begin to study the facts. The facts are really not at all like fish on a fishmonger’s slab. They are like fish swimming about in a vast and sometimes inaccessible ocean; and what the historian catches will depend partly on chance, but mainly on what part of the ocean he chooses to fish in and what tackle he chooses to use – these two factors being, of course, determined by the kind of fish he wants to catch.” Edward Hallett Carr



What Is Historiography?

- ◆ The history of historical study and the important debates occurring in the field
- ◆ “The body of literature dealing with historical matters; histories collectively”



The Term- Historiography

- ◆ The term ‘Historiography’ refers to two the study of history itself.
- ◆ It involves the critical examination of what evidence and historian collects, and how they interrupt and analyse is it to construct argument and form conclusions.
- ◆ It involves looking at the ‘end product’ the theories and augments posted by historians to ‘explain’ key events, ideas and people

Father of Historiography



- ◆ **Ibn Khaldun's historiographical methods have been adopted by historians throughout the centuries to the current day, earning him the title as the father of historiography**

Works

Kitāb al-'Ibar, -
universal history in
seven books.





The Historical Approach

How can we understand anything of other people or ourselves, if we know nothing of history? The historian shows us how change has worked in the past and helps us to understand the present and make educated guesses about the future.

Job #1 – Finding the Facts

- ◆ What are facts?
- ◆ Which facts are important?
- ◆ Are facts enough to explain the past?

The historian investigates facts and selects relevant ones. This is an art and not a science.





Job #2 – Identifying Bias

- ◆ Bias is the slant one puts on things.
 - It can be deliberate or unintentional.
 - All writing contains bias.
- ◆ Identify it by looking at the types of words used. How are the words meant?
- ◆ Every age contains its own biases. These make understanding past thinking difficult – but not impossible. **Historical imagination** is needed.



Job #3 – Dispensing With the Rubbish – Identifying Important and Answerable Questions.

- ◆ Sources must be selected critically.
- ◆ Topics need to be limited.
- ◆ **Primary** and **secondary** sources must be consulted.
- ◆ Value judgments are made.
- ◆ Conclusions must be based on the weight of evidence.
- ◆ Variations in interpretations should be understood and accepted.

Scientific Process for historians

Ask a question



Do background research



Form hypothesis



Test hypothesis (intensive research that examines all data or conducts experiment)



Confirm results and form conclusion

Publish results for other scientists to review



Either validated by peers or disproven



If tested and proven multiple times, becomes an established theory



Measuring Historical Time

Periodization

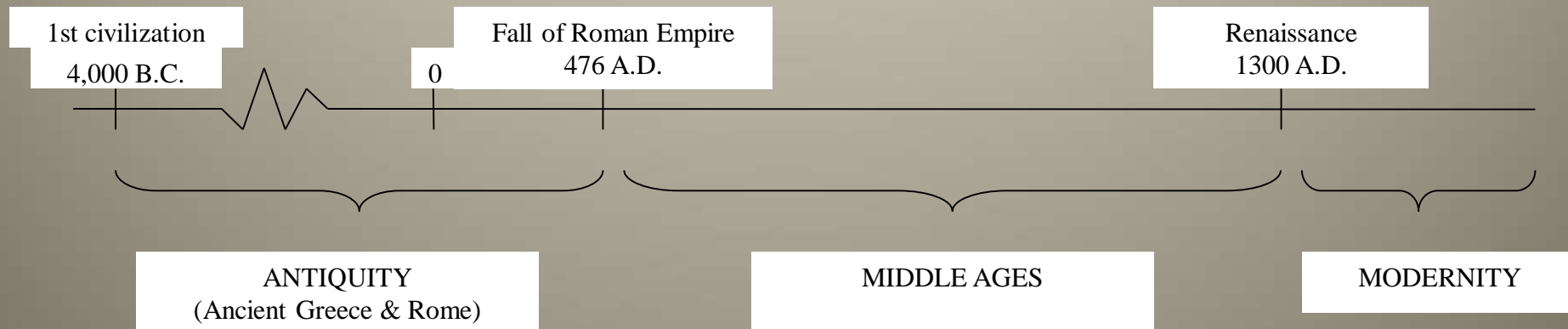
division of a subject into historical eras for purposes of analysis

Technological Division

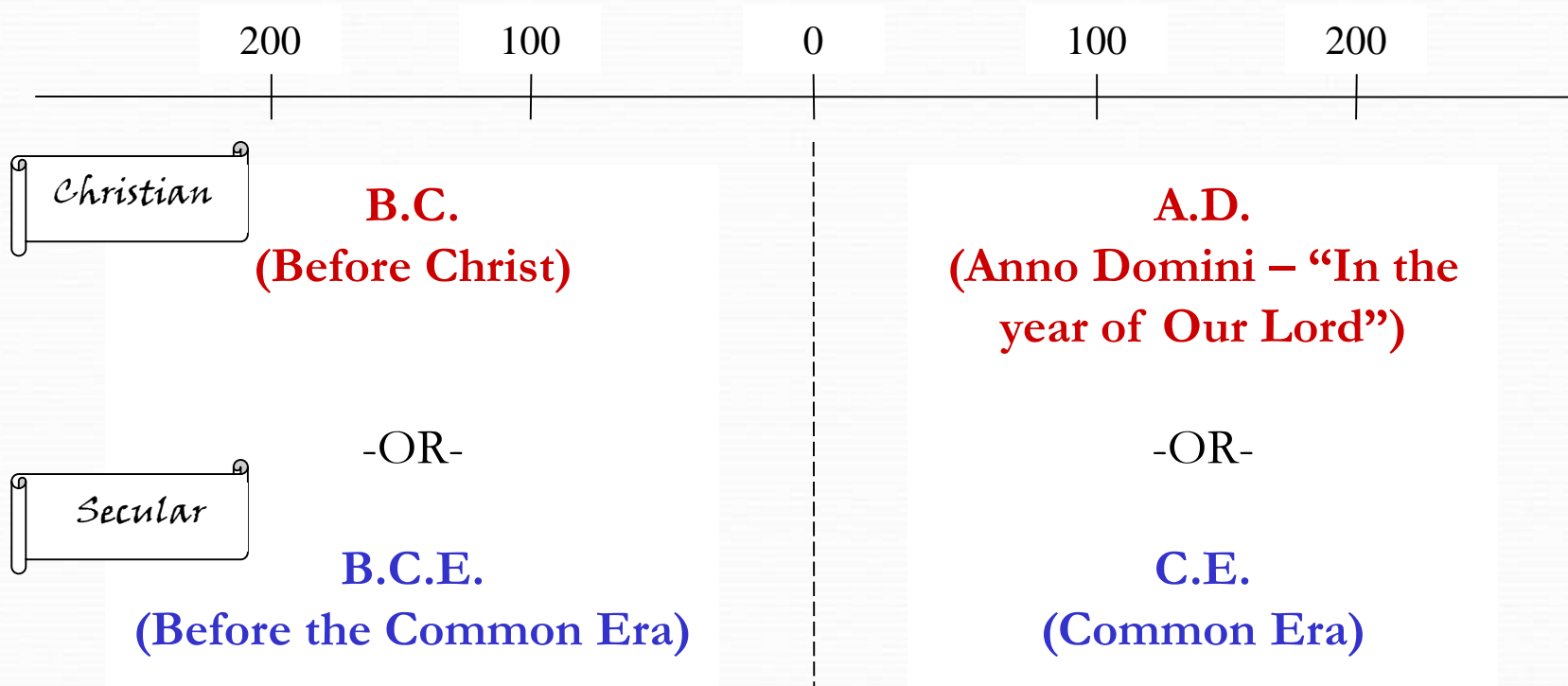
1. Paleolithic (2.5 mya)
2. Neolithic (10,000 B.C.)
3. Agricultural civ. (4,000 B.C.)
4. Industrial civ. (1750 A.D.)

Cultural Division

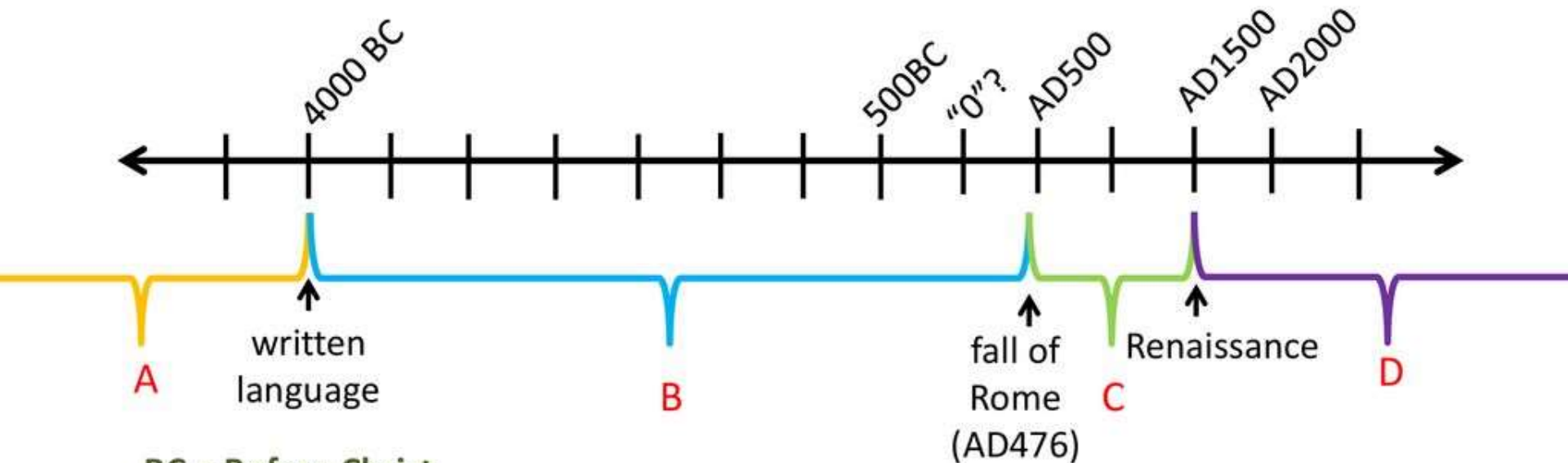
1. Antiquity (4,000 B.C.-476 A.D.)
2. Middle Ages (476-1300)
3. Modernity (1300-present)



Historical Dating



Copy the following on your timeline:



BC = Before Christ

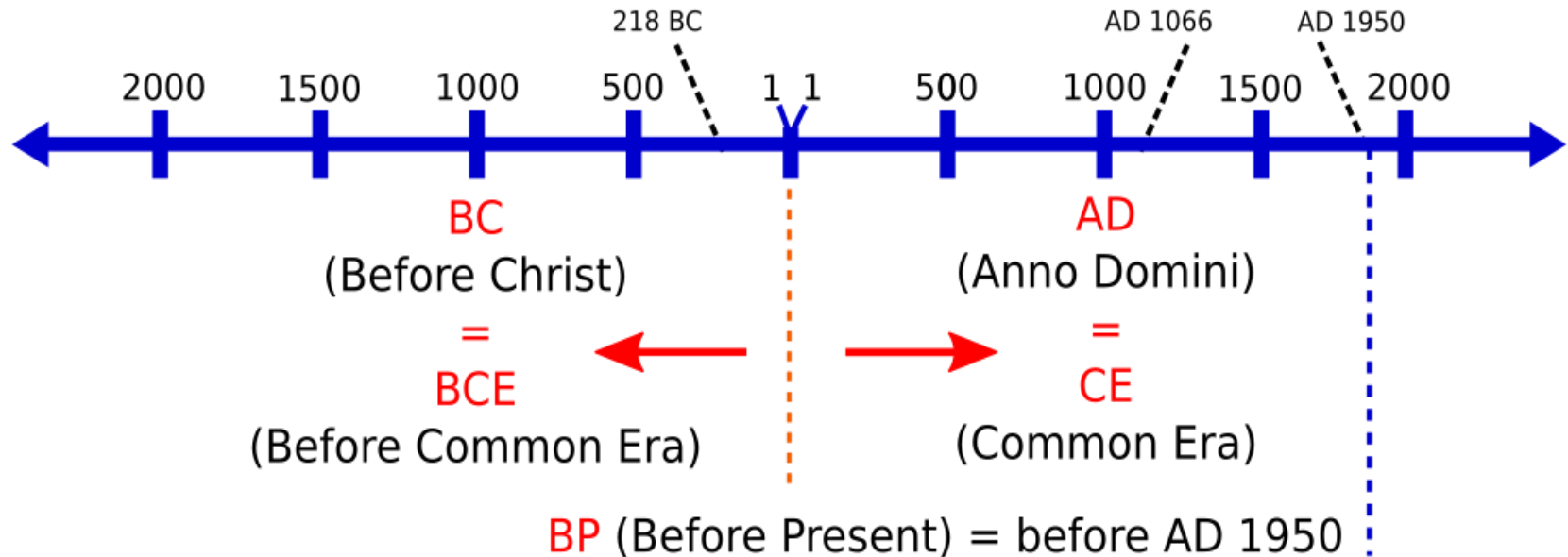
BCE = Before Common Era

AD = Anno Domini – Latin for
"In the year of our Lord"
(NOT After Death!)

CE = Common Era

A = Pre-history
B = Ancient History
C = Middle Ages
D = Modern History

BC - BCE and AD - CE Terms



The 'present' in BP is set at 1950, as this was close to when radiometric dating began to be used. Therefore a date like 3000 BP means 3000 before 1950 AD: in other words 1050 BC.

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

IT'S A BOOK ABOUT THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

AHHH... THE 1700's.

NO. THE 1600's.

THAT'S THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY, YOU SILLYHEAD.

NO, PIG... THAT'S THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

YO, MORON... YEARS BEGINNING WITH SIXTEEN CANNOT BE IN A CENTURY BEGINNING WITH SEVENTEEN.

WELL, THEY CAN BE, SO CAN YOU PLEASE JUST SHUT UP NOW?

OHH... LORD.

IF THE YEARS 1600 TO 1699 WERE IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY, AND A CENTURY HAS ONLY 100 YEARS, THERE'D BE NO ROOM LEFT FOR THE YEARS 1700 TO 1799. THEY'D CEASE TO EXIST! AND EVERYTHING THAT WAS INVENTED DURING THOSE YEARS WOULD BE GONE! MY GOD, MAN, THERE'D BE NO... NO...

HULA HOOP!

POOR GUY HAS TROUBLE ADMITTING MISTAKES.

NO... HULA... HOOP...

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- ◆ 2nd c. B.C. = 199-100 B.C.
- ◆ 2nd c. A.D. = 100-199 A.D.
- ◆ 1900s = 20th century



Thank You !!!