ChronoZoom

User’s Guide

# Introduction

This guide will walk you through the basics of using ChronoZoom, the near-infinitely zooming timeline of everything. The goal of this document is to provide you with the basic competency needed to use ChronoZoom yourself and to help your students to use it. This is not a comprehensive guide to every feature of ChronoZoom. You will find more features as you go along and you can also reference the complete guide [here](http://join.chronozoom.com/user-guide/).

Before we get into the exact details of using ChronoZoom, let's discuss what ChronoZoom is and what it isn't:

# ChronoZoom is …

* **designed to be cross-platform** -- this means that it is designed to work on almost any modern browser, including Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, Opera, and Safari. It is also intended to work on any hardware that supports these browsers. This includes PCs, Macs, Android devices, and iPads. It will even work on most smartphones, though the experience isn't optimized for such a small screen.
* **entirely free and always will be** -- you will never be asked to upgrade to a premium account or presented with advertising while using ChronoZoom. It is a free, open educational resource.
* **a tool for telling stories about history** -- ChronoZoom allows you and your students to create timelines, share them, and give presentations based on the timelines you have created.
* **safe and secure** -- when you create a timeline in ChronoZoom you will be asked to provide either a Microsoft Live ID, a Google ID, or a Yahoo ID. Once you have done this you will be given your own personal sandbox within which you can create timelines. You can share these timelines with anyone you like but only you will be able to edit them.

# ChronoZoom is not …

**designed to work on legacy browsers** -- ChronoZoom uses some of the latest developments in web technology to make the experience fresh and exciting for you and your students. Because of this it won't work on Internet Explorer 8 or other older browsers. If you have problems loading the ChronoZoom page, check your browser version and install a more modern browser (or talk to your IT administrator)

**a Flash, Silverlight or Unity application** -- ChronoZoom does not require you download any additional software for it to run. It simply uses the power of your web browser. We designed it this way so you would not have to worry about getting permission from your IT staff to install anything! Just go to ChronoZoom.com and you can start using it immediately.

**a tool for exploring all of history** -- while our ultimate intention is for ChronoZoom to be a sort of authroitative and visual wikipedia of all the knowledge in the universe, we are still far from that goal. As of October of 2013 we have about 7000 content items in the main ChronoZoom timeline. This is a very tiny amount if you compare it to the 1.26 million articles in Wikipedia or the fifteen terabytes of primary source data in the library of congress collections. We encourage you to use search engines and authoritative web sites to collect your data. Once you have the data you can use ChronoZoom to build timelines and give presentations.

e**ntirely free of problems** -- ChronoZoom is still in early release and there are problems (known as 'bugs') with some of the features. You may find that ChronoZoom doesn't do what you expect it to or gets stuck. If this happens, refresh your web page, maybe log out and log back in again, and see if that helps. If it doesn't, contact us on our website and tell us about the problem. We will help fix it. There is also a slight chance that you might lose some of your work while creating a timeline. **This happen very rarely and usually only with the specific item you are creating at that moment.**  We suggest that you use a program like Word, OneNote, or Excel to take notes before you make a timeline with your links and descriptions. That way if you lose some data you can easily re-enter it.

**designed to be an end-to-end teaching solution** -- we realized early on that ChronoZoom is very good at some things and not so good at others. We decided to concentrate on what ChronoZoom is best at and we have designed the curriculum to leverage the best of ChronoZoom. In fact, you can even use these lesson plans without using ChronoZoom at all! We really encourage you to try it, however. We are pretty confident that your students will enjoy it.

# Basic Features

ChronoZoom is terrific at doing a few key things:

Exploring the vastness of universal time -- Try zooming from 13.8 billion years to a single day. We guarantee that you and your students will be impressed.

Creating timelines -- We have made it easy to create timelines with either a mouse or using touch controls. We have also integrated Bing search and SkyDrive so you can easily find resources on the web or add your own personal images and videos.

Presenting timelines -- We have leveraged Microsoft Research Interactive Storytelling technologies to give you a simple system for stringing together many different points in time into a linear presentation that we call a 'tour'. Tours are easy to make, similar to making a presentation in PowerPoint or Prezi.

# Exploring the vastness of Time

# Creating a Timeline

# Presenting Timelines