



World History Timeline

Pre-History

year	event
14B BCE	the Big Bang
13.61B BCE	enter the Milky Way
4.5B BCE	enter Earth
3.7B BCE	earliest evidence of life
3.6B BCE	LUCA
2B BCE	Vredefort impact, the largest verified impact structure on earth
1.5B BCE	fungi
450M BCE	sharks
385M BCE	trees
243M-233M BCE	dinosaurs
66M BCE	Chicxulub Impact, end of non-bird dinosaurs
3.6M BCE	megalodon goes extinct
0.4M-0.1M BCE	formation of Saturn's rings
0.3M BCE	modern humans

Before Common Era

year	event
3.4M-5000 BCE	Stone Age
8500	earliest evidence of silk in Jiahu, China
5000-3300 BCE	Copper Age
~3500 BCE	the Kish Tablet, oldest written document
3300-1200 BCE	Bronze Age
2584-2561 BCE	the Great Pyramid of Giza is built
~2100-1200 BCE	the Epic of Gilgamesh
~1750 BCE	Complaint tablet to Ea-nāṣir
1332-1323 BCE	reign of Tutankhamun
1200 BCE	Start of the Iron Age
~700 BCE	Rome adds Jan. and Feb. to the start of the 10 month calendar
~600 BCE	first record of Zoroastrianism in Iran
~500 BCE - 300 CE	synthesis of Hinduism
~563-483 BCE	lifetime of Siddhartha Gautama, aka the Buddha, founder of Buddhism
~300 BCE	compass invented in China ¹
196 BCE	creation of the Rosetta Stone
71 BCE	death of Spartacus
51-30 BCE	Reign of Cleopatra
49 BCE	Julius Caesar crosses the Rubicon
45 BCE	Julius Caesar starts the Julian Calendar

Common Era

year	event
~30-36	Jesus crucified
79	eruption of Mount Vesuvius / destruction of Pompeii
105	papermaking invented in China ²
434-453	Attila the Hun rules the Huns

¹One of the Four Great Inventions of ancient China.

²One of the Four Great Inventions of ancient China.

year	event
476	fall of the Western Roman Empire
593	earliest reference to printing, in China ³
610	first revelation of Islam
~800	gunpowder invented in China ⁴
897	the Catholic church tries a dead pope
~975-1025	Beowulf manuscript written
1044	record of first bombs, in China
1095-1272	the Crusades
1185-1868	Samurai era
1206-1227	Genghis Khan rules the Mongol Empire
~1400	Romance of the Three Kingdoms ⁵
~1400	Water Margin ⁶
~1400	gunpowder use spreads to Eurasia
1450	invention of the Gutenberg printing press
1450-1572	Machu Picchu founded and inhabited
1492	Christopher Columbus “discovers” the Americas
~1500	Jin Ping Mei (The Plum in the Golden Vase) ⁷
1517	Martin Luther writes the Ninety-five Theses
1535	the Coverdale Bible, the first English Bible
1582	Pope Gregory XIII starts the Gregorian calendar
1592	Journey to the West ⁸
1611	the King James Bible is published, using already archaic language from 75-85 years earlier
1620	the Mayflower lands in New England
1662	last sightings of the dodo
1692-1693	Salem witch trials
1760-1840	the Industrial Revolution
1750	The Scholars ⁹
1775-1783	US Revolution
1776	USA is founded
1789-1799	the French Revolution
1791	Dream of the Red Chamber ¹⁰
1813	Pride and Prejudice published
1816	Year Without a Summer, aka Eighteen Hundred and Froze To Death
1818	Frankenstein published
1829	Joseph Smith completes the Book of Mormon
~1833	John Nelson Darby invents the rapture
1838	Samuel Morse invents clicky telegraphs and Morse Code
1843	Ada Lovelace writes the first computer algorithm
1844	Joseph Smith shot and killed
1861-1865	US Civil War
1863	the Emancipation Proclamation frees enslaved African Americans
1865	Juneteenth, the final enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation
1870	Leon Gambetta escapes the Siege of Paris in a hot air balloon
1885	setting of Back to the Future III
1885	AT&T founded
1886	Carl Benz makes the first gasoline powered modern car
1889	Nintendo founded
1897	Dracula published
1898	Puerto Rico and Guam acquired by US after Spanish-American War
1903	the first airplane flight, by the Wright brothers
1905	Einstein’s Theory of Special Relativity published
1906-1915	Azusa Street revival begins Pentecostalism and modern Christian speaking in tongues
1912	China adopts the Gregorian calendar

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⁵One of the six Classic Chinese Novels.

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year	event
1914-1918	WWI
1918–1920	the Great Influenza epidemic, aka the “Spanish flu”
1922-1991	the USSR
1928	discovery of penicillin
1929–1939	the Great Depression
1937	Amelia Earhart disappears
1939-1945	WWII
1945	flu vaccine becomes widely available
1947-1991	the Cold War
1951	Henrietta Lacks’ cells begin the HeLa cell line
1953	UK/US orchestrates the Iranian coup, precursor to the Islamic revolution
1955	setting of Back to the Future I
1961	Yuri Gagarin conducts the first human space flight
1962	the Cuban Missile Crisis
1963	JFK assassinated
1965	Alexei Arkhipovich Leonov conducts the first space walk
1965	Malcolm X is assassinated
1954-1968	American civil rights movement
1966-1969	Star Trek: TOS
1968	Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated
1968	RFK is assassinated
1969	the first message over Arpanet, the early internet
1969	Apollo 11, the first human moon landing
1971	release of Computer Space, the first arcade game
1974	Nixon resigns following the Watergate scandal
1975	US women can get credit without a male cosigner
1979	completion of the Iranian Islamic Revolution
1979-1989	Jerry Falwell’s “Moral Majority”
1980-2000	Satanic Panic
1980	scientists including Walter Alvarez propose that an asteroid killed the dinosaurs
1985	Alexey Pajitnov creates Tetris
1989	Berlin Wall falls
1990	discovery of Chicxulub crater
1991	Rodney King is beaten by police in Los Angeles, CA
1992-1996	Star Trek: Khan Noonien Singh rules a quarter of Earth
1993	marital rape outlawed in all 50 US states
1993	creation of the European Union
1999	the Euro is introduced
1999	Columbine High School shooting
2001	destruction of the World Trade Center
2001	the iPod is released
2001	Wikipedia launches
2005	YouTube is founded
2006	Pluto loses planet status
2007	the iPhone is released
2008	Lehman Brothers declares bankruptcy, triggering the 2008 recession
2008	the first Android phone (the HTC Dream) is released
2014	Michael Brown is shot by police in Ferguson, MO
2015	setting of Back to the Future II
2020	COVID-19 pandemic, est 18M deaths in 4.5 years
2020	George Floyd is murdered by police in Minneapolis, MN
2024	1st commercial moon landing
2024	Star Trek: Irish reunification