



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.

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| 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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⁷One of the six Classic Chinese Novels.

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¹⁰One of the six Classic Chinese Novels.

| 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 |
| 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 |
| 2015 | setting of Back to the Future II |
| 2020 | COVID-19 pandemic, est 18M deaths in 4.5 years |
| 2024 | 1st commercial moon landing |
| 2024 | Star Trek: Irish reunification |