



World History Timeline

Pre-History

year	event
14B BCE	the Big Bang
13.61 BCE	enter the Milky Way
4.5B BCE	enter Earth
3.7B BCE	earliest evidence of life
3.6B BCE	LUCA
1.5B BCE	fungi
450M BCE	sharks
385M BCE	trees
66M BCE	Chicxulub Impact, end of dinosaurs

Before Common Era

year	event
3.4M-5000 BCE	Stone Age
5000-3300 BCE	Copper Age
~3500 BCE	the Kish Tablet, oldest written document
3300-1200 BCE	Bronze Age
~2100–1200 BCE	the Epic of Gilgamesh
~1750 BCE	Complaint tablet to Ea-nāšir
1332–1323 BCE	reign of Tutankhamun
1200 BCE	Start of the Iron Age
~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
51-30 BCE	Reign of Cleopatra
45 BCE	Julius Caesar starts the Julian Calendar

Common Era

year	event
~30-36	Jesus crucified
105	papermaking invented in China ²
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
1185-1868	Samurai era
1206-1227	Ghengis Khan rules the Mongol Empire
~1400	Romance of the Three Kingdoms ⁵
~1400	Water Margin ⁶
~1400	gunpowder use spreads to Eurasia

¹One of the Four Great Inventions of ancient China.

year	event
1450	invention of the Gutenberg printing press
1492	Christopher Columbus “discovers” the Americas
~1500	Jin Ping Mei (The Plum in the Golden Vase) ⁷
1582	Pope Gregory XIII starts the Gregorian calendar
1592	Journey to the West ⁸
1620	the Mayflower lands in New England
1692-1693	Salem witch trials
1760-1840	the Industrial Revolution
1750	The Scholars ⁹
1791	Dream of the Red Chamber ¹⁰
1775-1783	US Revolution
1776	USA is founded
1789-1799	the French Revolution
1813	Pride and Prejudice published
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
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
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 aquired by US after Spanish-American War
1903	the first airplane flight, by the Wright brothers
1905	Einstein’s Theory of Special Relativity published
1914-1918	WWI
1928	discovery of penicillin
1937	Amelia Earhart disappears
1939-1945	WWII
1951	Henrietta Lacks’ cells begin the HeLa cell line
1961	Yuri Gagarin conducts the first human space flight
1963	JFK assassinated
1965	Alexei Arkhipovich Leonov conducts the first space walk
1954-1968	American civil rights movement
1966-1969	Star Trek: TOS
1968	Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated
1969	Apollo 11, the first human moon landing
1980-2000	Satanic Panic
1985	Alexey Pajitnov creates Tetris
2001	9/11
2020	COVID pandemic, est 18M deaths in 4.5 years
2024	1st commercial moon landing

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⁵One of the six Classic Chinese Novels.

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