

Topics covered

- The Gregorian calendar
- Numbering the years in the Gregorian calendar
 - The Saka calendar

We know that a timeline is a line of dates arranged in the right order. Arrange these dates in the right order to form a timeline.

The first date should be the earliest.

 2016
 1999
 1801

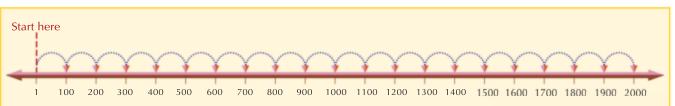
 1957
 1853
 1915

The years that start with '20' are in the 21st century, for example, the year 2016 is in the 21st century. The timeline also has years from the 20th and 19th centuries.

THE GREGORIAN CALENDAR

The 19th, 20th and 21st centuries are part of the **Gregorian calendar**. It is originally from Europe. For people here the birth of Jesus Christ was the most important event in history. So the numbering of years in this calendar starts from the time of Christ's birth.

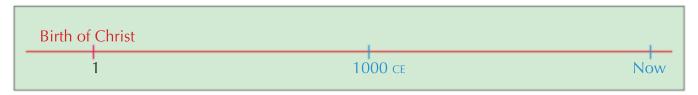
Put your finger on the year 1 on this timeline and jump forwards until you come to year 2000. Say the years aloud as you jump.



NUMBERING THE YEARS IN THE GREGORIAN CALENDAR

After the Birth of Christ

The years *after* the birth of Christ are written with the letters 'CE' after them, such as 2000 CE or 1857 CE. 'CE' stands for 'Common **Era**'. This is the period after the birth of Jesus Christ. This timeline shows you the time after the birth of Christ.



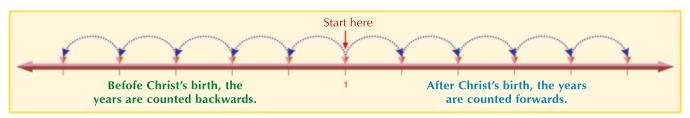
Some things that happened in the CE period:

- Mahatma Gandhi was born in 1869 ce.
- India became independent in 1947 ce.
- You were born ince.

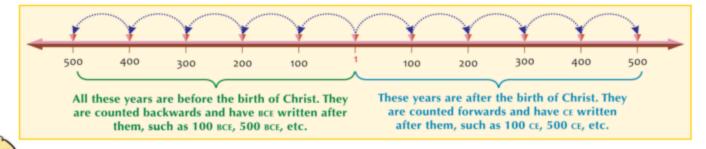
Before the Birth of Christ

History goes back even before the birth of Christ. To number the years *before* his birth, the years are counted *backwards* from the year 1.

The dotted arrows in the timeline show the direction in which we number the years, after the birth of Christ *and* before his birth. Starting from the first year, go over the dotted lines with a red pencil. First, go forwards and then go backwards.



'BCE' is written for the years before the birth of Christ. This stands for 'Before the Common Era':





You will see that in the BCE years, 500 BCE comes before 100 BCE but in the CE years, 500 ce comes after 100 ce.

The Gregorian calendar is now used all over the world.

Think and answer

- Why do you think that all the countries of the world use the **Gregorian calendar?**
- What would happen if different places used different calendars?





The Gregorian calendar is named after Pope Gregory the Thirteenth, who finalized it over 400 years ago.

SAKA CALENDAR

After Independence, it was decided that the Saka calendar would be India's national calendar. It is used along with the Gregorian calendar. The similarities and differences between these two calendars are:

- Both the Gregorian and Saka calendars are based on the movement of the earth around the sun. They both have 365 days in a year and 366 days in a leap year. You will learn about leap years in a later chapter.
- Both have 12 months. January is the first month of the Gregorian calendar and Chaitra is the first month of the Saka calendar.
- The starting point of the Gregorian calendar is the year 1 but that of the Saka calendar is 78 cE of the Gregorian calendar. A date in the Saka calendar is always 78 years less than the date in the Gregorian calendar.



- Write the Gregorian calendar year here:
 - Subtract 78 from this number. This is today's Saka year:

Calendars were needed so that people could plan activities like farming or festivals. We also know how useful calendars are.



The Calendar Reforms Committee, set up soon after Independence, identified more than 30 different Indian calendars being used all over the country!



Values and Life Skills

- Why are timelines important?
- Why do we need to understand how the years are counted?

REMEMBER

- 1. The Gregorian calendar uses the birth of Jesus Christ as its starting point.
- 2. The years after the birth of Christ have CE (Common Era) written after them.
- 3. The years before the birth of Christ have BCE (Before the Common Era) written after them.
- 4. The cE years are counted forwards from the year 1; the BCE years are counted backwards from the year 1.
- 5. In India the Saka calendar is used along with the Gregorian calendar.



WORDS

Gregorian calendar the system of naming the months and years that is used all

over the world

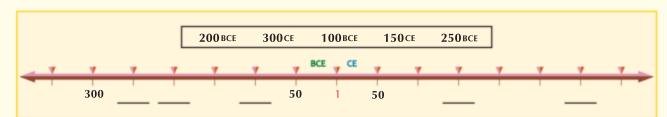
Era a very long period of time



D

A. Fill in the blanks.

Use the dates in the box to fill the blanks in this timeline.



B. Match the following.

A	В
1. CE	a. used all over the world
2. BCE	b. years start with 20
3. Year 1	c. Common Era
4. Gregorian calendar	d. Before the Common Era
5. 21st century	e. years are numbered forwards or backwards starting here

C. Write true or false.

Correct the false sentences in your book.

- 1. The Gregorian calendar was originally finalized in Europe.
- 2. The birth of Jesus Christ is an important date in the Gregorian calendar.
- 3. The CE years are counted backwards from the birth of Christ.
- 4. The Saka calendar is based on the movement of the moon.

D. Make a timeline of these dates.

- 2014 CE Poorna Malavath became the youngest girl ever, at the age of 13, to climb Mt Everest.
- 273 BCE Ashoka became king. He was one of India's greatest rulers.
- 483 BCE Buddha died. His teachings started the Buddhist religion.
- 1947 CE India became independent from British rule.
- 1628 CE Shah Jahan became the ruler. He built the Taj Mahal in memory of his wife.

E. Answer the following questions.

- 1. Which historical event is used as the starting point of the Gregorian calendar?
- 2. Which century are we in now?
- 3. Explain the difference in counting years between the cE and BCE years.
- 4. Name two events that happened in the CE years.
- 5. Give one similarity and one difference between the Gregorian and Saka calendars.



A. On your own

- 1. Find out the names of the months of the Saka calendar and list them.
- 2. On a calendar mark important events like birthdays, anniversaries, school events and festivals.

🍱 B. Picture study



- 1. Find the year 1 in this picture of a timeline.
- 2. What colour are the BCE years?
- 3. Which colour are the CE years?

C. In a group

Make this timeline with a partner.

You will need: a long strip of brown paper, graph paper, crayons, ruler, scissors, glue and a black felt pen

What to do:

- 1. On the graph paper, mark three squares equal to 100 years. Count 20 sections like this. Cut the graph paper. These are your ce years.
- 2. For the BCE years, again make three squares equal to 100 years. Count five sections. Cut the paper.
- 3. Colour the two strips with two different colours.
- 4. Draw a long straight line on the brown paper.
- 5. Paste the two strips on the line (see picture).
- 500 500 1500 1500
- 6. Draw a black line between the strips where the two colours meet. Mark this as '1'.
- 7. Starting from 1, count three squares each and mark the CE years—100, 200, 300 and so on until 2000.
- 8. Mark the BCE years, starting from 1 up to 500.

WEBLINK

BCE and CE in Chronological Order: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTcbFiFupTY (accessed on 27 July 2017)