

TIMELINES OF EVERYTHING







SMITHSONIAN



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A WORLD OF IDEAS:
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Smithsonian
THE SMITHSONIAN

Established in 1846, the Smithsonian—the world's largest museum and research complex—includes
19 museums and galleries and the National Zoological Park. The total number of artifacts, works of art, and
specimens in the Smithsonian's collection is estimated at 154 million. The Smithsonian is a renowned research
center, dedicated to public education, national service, and scholarship in the arts, sciences, and history.

Traveling through time

The earliest events in this book took place a very long time ago. Some dates may be followed by **BYA**, short for "billion years ago," **MYA**, short for "million years ago," or **YA**, short for "years ago." Other dates have **BCE** and **CE** after them. These are short for "before the Common Era" and "Common Era." The Common Era dates from when people think Jesus was born. Where the exact date of an event is not known, "c." is used. This is short for the Latin word *circa*, meaning "around," and indicates that the date is approximate.

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