



## no for the timeline

To visually represent **A.D. (Anno Domini)** and other eras on a timeline, historians typically use a horizontal line where time is shown moving from left (past) to right (future). Here's how you would see **A.D.** (and its secular equivalent, **CE**) used in a timeline, along with **B.C.** (Before Christ) and **B.C.E.** (Before Common Era):

A horizontal timeline with arrows at both ends. Below the timeline, numerical labels are placed at regular intervals: 3000 BCE, 1000 BCE, 1 BCE/1 BC, 1 CE/AD 1, 1000 CE/AD 1000, and 2025 CE/AD 2025.

- **BCE/BC:** Years **before** the traditional birth of Jesus Christ, numbers count down toward year 1.
- **CE/AD:** Years **after** the traditional birth of Jesus Christ, numbers count up from year 1.
- **There is no year 0;** the timeline transitions directly from 1 BCE/BC to 1 CE/AD.

**A.D.** is always written **before** the year number in Latin (e.g., AD 2025 = Anno Domini 2025), but in English, it's common to see it after (2025 AD). On a timeline, you'll see the division:

BCE/BC (Before Christ/Before Common Era)	1 BCE/BC	1 CE/AD	CE/AD (Common Era/Anno Domini)
... 3000 BCE, 1000 BCE, 500 BCE	1 BCE	1 CE	500 CE, 1000 CE, 2025 CE

### Visual Timeline Example:

A horizontal timeline with vertical tick marks for the years 3000, 2000, 1000, 500, 100, 1, 100, 500, 1000, 1500, 2000, and 2025. The left side is labeled "BCE / BC" and the right side is labeled "CE / AD".

- Left of "1" is BCE/BC (e.g., 3000 BCE, 1000 BCE, 500 BCE, 1 BCE) - Right of "1" is CE/AD (e.g., 1 CE/AD, 100 CE/AD, 1000 CE/AD, 2025 CE/AD)

### Design Notes:

- Timelines can be vertical or horizontal, and can use colors or bands to show different civilizations or themes<sup>[1]</sup> <sup>[2]</sup>.
- Modern timeline infographics often use icons, bands, or color-coding to clarify eras and events<sup>[3]</sup> <sup>[2]</sup> <sup>[4]</sup>.

If you want to create your own timeline, tools like Canva, Venngage, and EdrawMax offer customizable templates for historical timelines<sup>[5]</sup> <sup>[3]</sup> <sup>[6]</sup>.



1. <https://www.xentity.com/historical-timeline-visualizations-story-maps-and-changing-styles/>

2. <https://www.datavis.ca/gallery/timelines.php>
3. <https://venngage.com/blog/timeline-examples/>
4. <https://reallygooddesigns.com/timeline-infographic-examples/>
5. <https://www.canva.com/templates/s/timeline/>
6. <https://edrawmax.wondershare.com/timeline/history-timeline.html>