

Creating a Timeline

What is it? A **timeline** shows when, and in what order, past events happened. Organizing events along a timeline helps you see how the events are related to one another in time. Understanding this relationship can also help you remember the sequence of events.

How to do it. First, locate the dates in your reading. Find the earliest and latest dates you want to record. Then choose beginning and end dates for your timeline. For example, if your dates range from 1812 to 1926, your timeline might begin at 1800 and end at 1930. Using a ruler, divide the line into equal units of time. Finally, place the other dated events from the reading along your timeline.

Try it. Read this passage and list dates to show on a timeline.

“All roads lead to Rome.” This ancient saying dates back more than two thousand years. For 500 years, from about 27 B.C.E. to 476 C.E., Rome was the capital of the greatest empire the world had ever seen. At its height, around 117 C.E., the Roman Empire spanned the entire Mediterranean world.

However, the empire did not last. Power struggles, border threats, and economic and social problems led to its fall. In 330 C.E., the emperor Constantine moved his capital east to Byzantium. After that, power was divided between two emperors, one in Rome and the other in Byzantium. A Germanic tribe invaded Rome in 410 C.E. and looted the city. In 476 C.E., the last emperor in Rome was driven from his throne.

From your list of dates, create a timeline for the history of the Roman Empire.

