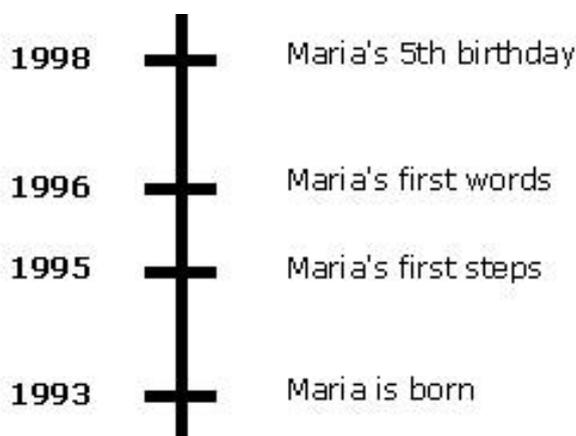


How to Make a Timeline

Part 1: Timeline Basics

How do people keep track of things that happen on certain days or in certain years? They make a timeline.

For example, Maria's parents want to keep track of important things in her life. They decide to make a timeline. Maria is born in 1993. She walks for the first time in 1995, when she is 2. The next year, she says her first words. And in 1998, she celebrates her fifth birthday. Her parents can keep track of all these things by putting them on a timeline like the one below.



See how the events that happened first are at the bottom? Then, as you move toward the top, the event that happened next is next as you move up the line. The last event is at the top.

Putting events on a timeline like this gives you a sense of how much time goes by in between each event. It also helps you remember just when those important things happened. Years from now, when Maria has her own children, she might want to remember when she first walked. She can look at this timeline that her parents made and remember that when she first walked, she was 2.



Part 2: Timelines in History

Historians, too, use timelines to track things like the growth of a civilization, the progress of a war, and the development of a new technology.

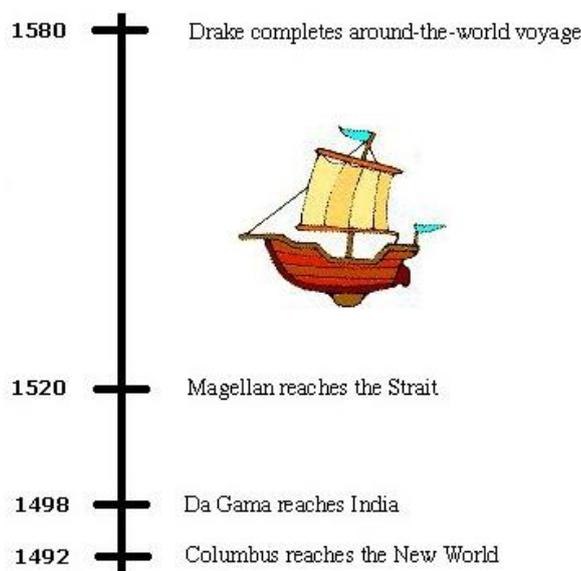
They can also keep track of important dates in history like when famous explorers set off on their famous voyages.

For instance, look at this list of explorer, listed in alphabetical order:

- Columbus reaches the New World in 1492
- Da Gama reaches India in 1498
- Drake completes sailing around the world in 1580
- Magellan discovers what comes to be called the Strait of Magellan in 1520

Now, let's put these events on a timeline (below). Notice how they change order. Notice also that the distance between Columbus and Da Gama (6 years) is much smaller on the timeline than the distance between Magellan and Drake (60 years). This is another good use of a timeline. It can help you tell that certain events happened much closer together in time than other events.

EXPLORERS TIMELINE



So the next time someone asks you to make a timeline, don't be frightened by all the dates. Remember, the more timelines you see, the better you'll understand them. It's only a matter of time until you're an expert.

