

Constructing Time Lines

LEARN THE SKILL

A time line can help you see and better understand relationships among historical events. When you decide to create a time line, you need to make certain basic decisions.

First decide on the topic to be covered. This might be something like “Major Battles in the Pacific War” or “Mobilizing the Home Front.”

Once you have decided on a topic, then you can choose the period to be covered by the time line. You could decide, for example, that your time line will cover the years from 1941 to 1945.

After you have chosen a topic and decided on the period to be covered, you need to gather information. This should include the events to be placed on the time line and the dates when they occurred. Make a list of those events in the order in which they occurred.

Now you are ready to construct the time line. Draw a straight line with a ruler or straight edge. Mark it with even intervals representing time periods. For example, you might draw intervals of one year evenly spaced across the time line. Label the intervals to show the actual date: 1941, 1942, 1943, and so on. Then place a label on the time line for each historical event at the point when it took place.

PRACTICE AND APPLY THE SKILL

World War II was the result of events that took place in the period after World War I. Construct a time line covering the period from 1922 through 1938. Title it *The Road to War*. Then read the material in Section 1 titled *The Rise of Totalitarianism*. On your time line, mark the major events that occurred in Italy, Germany, the Soviet Union, and Japan in this period. Then answer the question below.

How did constructing the time line help you to better understand the events that occurred during this period in history?