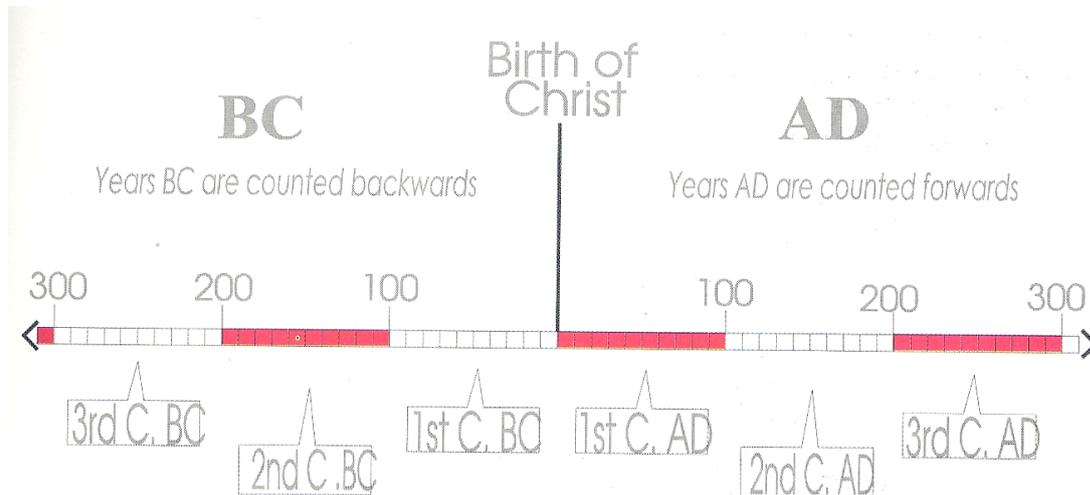




MYP1 - Individuals and Society

Measuring Historical Time

Traditionally in history we measure time in years before and after the birth of Jesus Christ.



The years before Jesus Christ's birth are counted backwards and are referred to as BC ('Before Christ'). The years after Christ are referred to as AD ('Anno Domini', meaning 'in the year of our Lord'). They are counted forwards from the year of Christ's birth.

You will see also from the time chart that the 'first century' (either BC or AD) falls between the year 1 and the year 100. The second century includes the years from 101 to 200 and so on. This means, for example, that the year 430 BC was the fifth century BC, while the year AD 1998 was in the twentieth century AD.

BCE and CE

Rather than use the letters BC and AD some people prefer to use BCE (Before Common Era) and CE (Common Era). They argue that because most people are not Christians it is wrong to use a dating system based on Christianity. It has also been pointed out that Jesus Christ was probably not born in the year AD 1 and therefore the system is inaccurate.

Activities

1. Make a copy of the time chart using either the traditional (BC-AD) or BCE-CE system. Explain why some people prefer not to use the traditional system.
2. Put the following 10 dates into the correct chronological order: AD 94, 567 BC, AD 1562, 2318 BC, AD 546, AD 1999, 1425 BC, AD 654, 46 BC, 630 BC.
3. For each of the following years identify which century they are from: AD 1675, 1435 BC, AD 546, 678 BC, AD 45, 46 BC, AD 7, 4325 BC, AD 1242, 11233 BC