

Dormers Wells High School: History

History: How do we use dates in History at Secondary School?

History is all about what has happened in the past, looking at important people, events and place. It covers a huge amount of time, including recent historical events like World War Two, which ended just 75 years ago, to more ancient times, such as the Bronze age over 4000 years ago.

As we cover such big amounts of time it is important to know how to use dates and language about time properly in History.

1) Some commonly used words and phrases to do with dates and time are listed below. Can you use a dictionary to match the word to the correct definition?

Draw a line from the word to the correct definition.

Word	Definition
Chronology	A period of time lasting 1000 years
Decade	Meaning Before Christ- before the year
Century	A period of time lasting 10 years
Millennium	A length or portion of time
BC	A period of time lasting 100 years
AD	Mean Anno Domini which is Latin for 'in the year of the lord
Period	The study of exactly when things happened

2) Now you know some key words that are often used in History let see if you can correctly order some historic events based on the date on which they happened.

When we use dates in History we need to think about what chronological order they happened in. This means putting them in order, from the earliest to the most recent.

Look at the list of event below to help you understand what chronological order looks like:

1066 – Battle of Hastings

1346 - Disease called the Black Death arrived in England

1564 – A famous writer called William Shakespeare was born

1666 – The Great fire of London

1837- Queen Victoria was born

These dates are in chronological order starting with the earliest date in 1066 all the way through to the most recent date in 1837.

Try reading the dates out loud, saying any date with four numbers in two parts. For instance, the date 1837 is NOT said “one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven”, instead it IS said “eighteen thirty-seven.” To help you, imagine an invisible line between the second and third number in the date.

3) Below is another list of events but they have been mixed up and are no longer in chronological order.

Can you write the date and event out below in the correct order? The first one has been done for you so you know how to lay out your work.

1989 - the internet was invented

1912 - the Titanic hit an iceberg and sunk

1815 - The Battle of Waterloo

1509 – Henry VIII became the king of England

1698 – The steam engine was invented

43 - the Romans invaded Britain

793 – The Vikings arrived in Britain

1485 – The Tudor period began.

Correct order:

1. 43 – The Romans invaded Britain

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

4) CHALLENGE: discuss with your teacher, parent or guardian what the difference is between BC and AD dates (when they happened, what order they go in, and how to say them).

Once you have finished your work make sure you keep it safe for when you start at secondary school, as you will need this in your first History lesson.