**Becoming a Timelord**

The traditional way of referring to time in history comes from the Christian perspective or world view:
- **BC** = Before Christ
- **AD** = Anno Domini = The Year of our Lord

Later on, people began to think that a non-religious, neutral way of referring to time might be a good idea:
- **BCE** = Before the Common Era
- **CE** = Common Era

When you refer to very long time periods such as more than 10,000 years ago, it’s not really necessary to use either BC/AD or BCE/CE. Instead, you can just say “before the present” or **BP**.

**Practice with Dating and Timelines**

(see the timeline below)

1. **Circle**: Which events tend to be labelled **BP**?  
   - a prehistoric  
   - b ancient  
   - c medieval  
   - d modern

2. **Circle**: Before the Common Era (BCE), the numbers increase / decrease as time passes.

3. **Circle**: In the Common Era (CE), the numbers increase / decrease as time passes.

4. **Label the timeline below** with the following words or phrases. Work with a friend.  
   - first writing  
   - constructive fire  
   - destructive fire  
   - Magna Carta  
   - Black Death  
   - moon landing  
   - Great Pyramid  
   - terracotta warriors  
   - invention of the wheel  
   - Theory of Relativity  
   - human extinction  
   - domestication  
   - animal extinction  
   - Aboriginal people’s sea journey  
   - Parthenon  
   - Vesuvius erupts

![Timeline Diagram]

Becoming a Timelord, Year 7 History – Handout by Roslyn Green
Becoming a Timelord, continued

5 Find an example in the timeline of:

a A major technological advance
b A natural disaster

c An architectural achievement
d A long journey
e A change in communication

6 Can you place the following 4 sets of 4 events into chronological order? Write 1-4 in each box. For each set, the number 1 should represent the earliest event and the number 4 the most recent event.

a Colosseum is completed, 80 CE
Australia becomes a nation, 1901
First stone axes, c. 2 million years BP
First Aboriginal people journey to Australia, c. 65,000 years BP

b Black Death, 1348 CE
Moon landing, 1969
First writing, 3300 BCE
Theory of Relativity published in 1925

c Attack on the World Trade Centre, 2001
Myall Creek Massacre of Aboriginal people, 1838
Trench warfare, 1917
The Neanderthals bury their dead, c. 120,000 years BP

d First farming, about 13,000 years BP
Great Pyramid, 2560 BCE
Invention of the wheel, c. 3500 BCE
First cave paintings, at least 30,000 years BP