Introduction to History

Welcome to our school and to my history class!
This presentation includes…

• many stories about human history;
• an account of different periods in history;
• some simple timelines from different perspectives;
• an explanation of terms like BCE, CE, BC, AD and BP;
• details about the human way of life in the prehistoric period.
Resources that may be useful with this presentation

- **Handout:** The Periods of History (corresponds to Slides 4-23)
- **Handout:** Becoming a Timelord (Slides 27-36)
- **Online Quiz:** Describing Times and Periods in History (Slides 5-36)
- **Chronology of History:** Jumble Kahoot
- **Video:** The History and Future of Everything by “In a Nutshell” (Slide 36)
- **Recommended Website:** The Neolithic Revolution
- **Video:** Stories from the Stone Age, Part 1 (Slide 59)
- **Handout:** Stories from the Stone Age - Fill the Gaps OR Edpuzzle (Video Quiz): Stories from the Stone Age
- Notes on "Stories from the Stone Age" (for Teachers or Extension Work)
- **Handout:** SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats): The Beginning of Farming (Slides 46-59)
- **Textbook:** Humanities Alive 7, pp. 11-13, 31-45
Dividing the Human Past into Periods
(see also your handout)

Prehistoric Period
At least 2 million years ago until about 3300 BCE (the period before people could write)

Ancient Period
From 3300 BCE until 476CE (when the western part of the Roman Empire fell)

Medieval Period
From 476AD until about 1500 (this depends on your historian)

Modern Period
About 1500 until the present
You can also show these periods on a **timeline**: This is not drawn to scale. A mathematician would be horrified.

Prehistory

- **Prehistoric Period**: 2 million + years ago
  - Early humans begin to make tools.
  - Humans begin to write.

History

- **Ancient Period**: 3300 BCE
  - Western Rome falls.

- **Medieval Period**: 476 CE

- **Modern Period**: 1500 CE
  - Renaissance
  - "Vitruvian Man"

Now!
The timeline on the previous slide presents a Western and European perspective of human history.

Here is another point of view:

After a long and hazardous voyage, the first Aboriginal people arrive in Australia, 65,000+ years ago.

The giant marsupial, the diprotodon, is believed to have become extinct about 50,000 years ago.

Some Kimberley rock art is believed to be up to 50,000 years old.

“Mungo Man” (and other early Australians) were buried at Lake Mungo 40,000 years ago.
The Aboriginal peoples developed diverse cultures and spoke 250 different languages.

Tasmania and its people were cut off from the mainland 12,000 years ago.

The Gunditjmara people of Western Victoria set up a complex eel farming economy 6,500 years ago.
Another point of view continued:

Aboriginal people resisted the arrival of James Cook in 1770.

The Aboriginal warrior Pemulwuy fought back against the European invaders in 1792.

Dingoes were introduced into Australia by Asian seafarers about 4000 years ago.
Each of the next 12 slides contains a picture, a brief explanation and a date.

Your task is to work out in which period each event took place. Add one example from each period to your handout.

**Example:** The stone tool below belongs in the prehistoric period.

**First stone tools**
Over 2 million years ago
At least 13,000 years ago: some wolves began to evolve into dogs. Dogs began to live with humans, who began to influence dog evolution and breeding. In other words, dogs were domesticated.
Which period?

The first stone tools were made, at least 2 million years ago.
The Magna Carta was signed in 1215 CE in England: this provided a guarantee of certain basic human rights.
The Neanderthals, another kind of human being (sometimes called a hominid) died out about 30,000 years ago.
Which period?

The Parthenon in Athens was built in the 5th century BCE.
Which period?

The first car: 1885
The first Aboriginal people travelled to Australia: this first great sea journey of the human species is believed to have taken place at least 65,000 years ago.
First smartphone, 2007

Which period?
Which period?

Photo by Matthew Abbott, from BBC coverage, showing a burning house in Conjola, New Year’s Eve, 2019
Which period?

The Colosseum in Rome was built in the 1st century CE.
Which period?
The first humans landed on the moon in 1969.
The Black Death, a horrific and usually fatal disease, struck the people of China, then travelled westward to Europe, where at least one-third of the population died, in 1348.

This is how the doctors dressed in the hope of reducing their infection rate.
Which picture goes with which period?

- (a) Collins Street, Melbourne (1895)
- (b) Building a castle (Between 1000 and 1400 CE)
- (c) A shaduf in Egypt (1400 BCE)
- (d) Domestication of sheep (10,000 years ago)
- (e) Theory of relativity (1921)
- (f) First writing (About 3300 BC)
Which picture goes with which period?  

1895 - Modern Period
(a) Collins Street, Melbourne
(d) Domestication of sheep
(e) Theory of relativity

Medieval period
(b) Building a castle

Ancient period
(c) A shaduf in Egypt
(f) First writing

Prehistoric period - 10,000 years ago

Modern period - 1921

Ancient period about 1400 BC

Ancient period about 3300 BC
Quick Quiz - The Story So Far

a Another term for **perspective** in history is the phrase...
b The period between the **ancient** and **modern periods** is sometimes called the Middle Ages or the ...
c A **chronological diagram** showing events in historical order is called a …
d An example of a **change in technology** is… (many possible answers)
e List 2-3 important **skills or changes** that have contributed to the development of the human story.

**Possible Answers (if you need extra help):**
- medieval period • point of view • timeline • learning to write OR learning to farm OR domesticating animals OR building and using boats… • using tools OR developing transport options OR new architectural methods OR using metals…
Extra Reading from Your Text
(if time permits)

Read pages 37-39:
• “An Amazing Journey”
• “When did people first come to Australia?”

Why might these people have decided to make such a long, challenging and perilous journey?
Becoming a Timelord

Today we shall…
• learn how to use terms like BCE, BC, AD, CE and BP;
• focus on putting events into chronological order.

Extra Activities
(in order to become a certified timelord):
• Corresponding handout
• Online quiz: Describing Times and Periods in History
• Chronology of history: Jumble Kahoot

The last 2 activities will have to be put off until your laptops arrive.
Talking About Time in History

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
Talking About Time in History

After a while, people began to think that a non-religious, neutral way of referring to time might be a good idea:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{BCE} &= \text{Before the Common Era} \\
\text{CE} &= \text{Common Era}
\end{align*}
\]

The birth of Christ still marks the cutoff point between the eras, but there is no reference to Christ.
Talking About Time in History

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

Scientists often use the term BP because they deal with very long time periods in the distant past.

Historians who study the deep past, such as archaeologists and palaeontologists, also use this term.
Using BP - Before the Present

The dinosaurs died out 67 million years ago or 67,000,000 years BP.

Early hominids (the human species before us) began to make fire at least 400,000 years ago or 400,000 years BP.

The Neanderthals died out about 30,000 years BP.
How Dating and Timelines Work

1 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 on your handout with the following words or phrases. Work in pairs and help each other:
   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
   (See answers on next slide)

5 Find an example of:
   a a major technological advance  b a natural disaster  c an architectural achievement
   d a long journey  e a change in communication
The History and Future of Everything - by Kurz gesagt - In a Nutshell

View this video on YouTube: Time: The History and Future of Everything
Today we shall learn about **hunting and gathering**, the lifestyle that all humans led until between 12,000 and 10,000 years ago.
The Hunting and Gathering Lifestyle of the Old Stone Age

Until 12,000 to 10,000 years ago, every person in the world lived by hunting and gathering.

The period before this is commonly referred to as the Old Stone Age or the Palaeolithic Period.
Hunting
Hunting wild animals for meat was often carried out by the men.

Gathering
Often done by women and children, this involved collecting seeds, wild plants, tubers, fruits and nuts.

Fire
Using fire allowed people to have a more varied diet.

Art
People painted herds of animals on cave walls.

Tools
Early people learned to make tools such as spears, digging sticks and axes.
Think, Pair, Share:

• How would **making tools** have helped hunters and gatherers to survive?

Your thought

Your partner’s thought

**Shared Class Ideas**

At least 2 million years BP
How would tools have helped hunters and gatherers to survive?

My Suggestions

At least 2 million years before the present

- Digging sticks to collect wild foods
- Being able to tan animal skins and make clothing
- Weapons to defend themselves and kill animals for meat
- Using a tool to make another tool or weapon
- Making fire
Think, Pair, Share:

• How would using fire have helped hunters and gatherers to survive?

Your thought

Your partner’s thought

Shared Class Ideas
• How would using fire have helped hunters and gatherers to survive?

**My Suggestions**

- Fire allowed food to be cooked, which meant easier digestion, better health and more food variety.
- Fire provided warmth and light through the long, dark winters.
- The Aboriginal people used fire to burn back the land and encourage regrowth.
- People could use fire to protect themselves from wild animals.
Read page 33:
• “Technologies and Peoples”

a Make a list of all the skills that Old Stone Age people needed to develop in order to survive.

b Which of these abilities would best suit your own skill set?
### The Old Stone Age

All People Lived as Hunter-Gatherers

### The New Stone Age

Transition in Some Regions to Farming and Herding Lifestyle

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**Download Handout:**
The Old and New Stone Ages and the Lifestyle of Hunter-Gatherers
The Neolithic Revolution

Today we shall...

• explore and evaluate the changes that occurred in human lifestyle when some people began to plant crops and herd animals.

These changes were dramatic and revolutionary. Our existence today would be impossible without them.
The Neolithic Revolution
The Beginning of Agriculture

From 13,000 to 10,000 years ago, people in the area that we now call the Middle East began to plant grain and grow crops.
The Neolithic Revolution

The Beginning of Agriculture

**Agriculture:** farming, cropping, growing food

Actually, this was literally a ground-breaking time in human history.

How do you think this might have affected the human way of life?
How do you think that the beginning of cropping might have affected the human way of life?

Hints to Help You Consider This Question

Grain does not decay. It can be stored for decades.

When you produce food, you have more of it than when you just wait for it to grow.

Farming requires a number of people to work steadily in one place.
The Beginning of Agriculture

How do you think that the beginning of cropping might have affected the human way of life?

Your thought

Your partner’s thought

Shared Class Ideas
How do you think that the beginning of cropping might have affected the human way of life?

My Suggestions

People could plan for the future, rather than living from day to day.

Gradually people could rely less and less on the nomadic lifestyle.

The same area of land could support a much denser population.

Villages, towns and even cities could begin to develop.

Problems with environmental degradation and disease could occur.
The Neolithic Revolution

The Beginning of Animal Herding

When people began to herd animals, they chose the characteristics they wanted in their breeding animals. This meant, for example, that they bred goats with smaller horns and gentler personalities. This process of tampering with evolution is called **domestication**.

Ibex - wild goat

Domesticated goat
Sheep and goats were to become the first farm animals, in around 10,000 BC. They could provide all kinds of products that were useful to the first farmers. Can you suggest some?
Of course, one animal had already been domesticated, at least 3,000 years earlier.

**Dog domestication - about 13,000 years ago**
This is when dogs began to become our best friends.Originally they were wolves.
Changes Involve Both Advantages and Disadvantages

- Strength
- Weakness
- Plus
- Minus
- Positive
- Negative
- Benefit
- Downside
To Analyse a Change, Decision or Plan: Carry Out a SWOT Analysis

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strength</strong></td>
<td><strong>Weakness</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>What are clear advantages or benefits of the change?</td>
<td>What are clear disadvantages or downsides of the change?</td>
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<td><strong>Opportunity</strong></td>
<td><strong>Threat</strong></td>
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<td>What positive options for the future could this change make possible?</td>
<td>What potential dangers could develop as a result of this change?</td>
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A Swot Analysis of the Beginning of Farming

### Carry Out a SWOT Analysis

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<tr>
<th><strong>S</strong> Strength</th>
<th><strong>W</strong> Weakness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Example:</strong> Greater food security</td>
<td><strong>Example:</strong> Dependence on rain and other environmental circumstances</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>O</strong> Opportunity</th>
<th><strong>T</strong> Threat</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Example:</strong> People could be freed from daily food production in order to take on other roles, such as those of artists or teachers.</td>
<td><strong>Example:</strong> Exploitation of the environment with potential impacts on the future settlements</td>
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The Impact of the Neolithic Revolution
Reading from Your Text

Read pages 42-43:
• “The New Stone Age”

This excerpt from your text will give you ideas to add to the SWOT* matrix on your handout, which can be downloaded at this link.

*Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
Stories from the Stone Age, Part 1

This video is available on YouTube at this link.

• Notes for Teachers and Extension Work
• Handout for Students: Stories from the Stone Age - Fill the Gaps