

Overlapping Timeline Activity

World History and Geography I

Dear Time Traveler:

Although we are studying one culture at a time in history class, several of the ancient cultures we are studying existed at the same times as other cultures; they overlapped in time. Your mission is to construct a timeline showing when each of these ancient cultures existed. By constructing this timeline and answering the questions at the bottom of this sheet, you will demonstrate your understanding that ancient cultures did not develop in isolation; they were influenced by their neighbors.

Instructions:

A. Draw a proportional timeline which begins at 3500 B.C. and ends at 500 A.D.

(Hints: Put your name on your timeline and on your question sheet. Work with pencil so you can correct mistakes. Draw your timeline about 1/3 of the way from the bottom of the paper. How many years does this period cover? Divide your line into four equal parts. Identify these 4 sections with the years they began and ended. Also identify the year 0 (birth of Christ).

B. Identify the complete time spans of each of the following five ancient cultures:

Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, classical Greece, the Qin and Han Dynasties combined, and the Roman Empire.

(Hints: Start with the first culture, Mesopotamia, and make little tick marks on your timeline which show when this culture began and when it ended. For an ending date see the dates of Babylon. Write the dates above the tick marks. Above your dates draw a bar which begins and ends at the tick marks. Identify this bar as Mesopotamia. Follow the same process with the other four cultures, drawing a new bar for each. If the dates of cultures overlap, place your next bar above an earlier bar.

Questions: On a separate sheet of paper answer the following questions.

1. With which of the four other cultures could the ancient Egyptians have traded goods and ideas?
2. Writing first developed in Mesopotamia. Which culture probably got the idea of writing from the Mesopotamians?
3. Based on the Rosetta Stone, were the ancient Egyptians and classical Greeks sharing information? Support your opinion.
4. Could the classical Greeks have traded goods with the Qin Dynasty of China?
5. Could the Han Dynasty have traded goods with the Roman Empire?
6. Has the United States existed as long as any of these five ancient cultures?
If so, which one(s)?