



Passing on Family Memories

Handout 2 -

Family Timeline Activity

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What is a family timeline?

A personal or family timeline is a list of historical events arranged in the time sequence in which they occurred. A chronology is a very useful tool in passing on individual or family memories. It also can be a valuable part of a family history.

Why should you create a family timeline?

Putting together a timeline is among the easiest ways to pass on family memories. It is a good place to begin such a task. It is a simple and straightforward process. It has a clear-cut beginning — birth — and an obvious end — the present. Most people who wish to pass on memories probably should begin by compiling a timeline. It is helpful because:

- Compiling a timeline causes you to review the main events in your life that you wish to pass on.
- Associations are renewed and strengthened as others cooperate to help you create a timeline.
- A timeline will help you come to view your life in a clearer perspective.
- A timeline will help you be more historically precise in passing on memories.
- A timeline will help you be more focused as you consider passing on family memories.

What materials will you need?

You may put together a family timeline using copies of the timeline sheet provided as an example. You also may use 3-inch by 5-inch cards to record your information and organize it.

How do you record the information and memories?

Focus on developing a timeline that records your personal and family life experiences through time from birth to the present. Entries can be short descriptions of three or four sentences. Record the information as follows:

- The date – Write the date of a specific memory, event or experience in the corner of a card or chronology sheet.
- The event – Write on each card or chronology entry one single event or memory in your life that you wish to pass on – any experience that affected your life in a significant or memorable way.

Sample entries might look something like this:

September 1960 - I enrolled at Memorial Elementary School and attended sixth grade. My class was team taught by Mr. Rosenberg, Mr. Kazman and Mrs. Donovan.

March 1964 - I was elected as secretary of the 10th-grade class in high school.

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List of Resources for a Personal or Family Timeline

A number of useful resources are available online to help you begin the process of creating a personal or family timeline. Access these free, user-friendly websites to organize your timeline entries and create a fun, personalized resource to share and pass on memories.

- **Templates and Themes for Microsoft Office Online:** Free, fillable templates are available for use with Microsoft Office and can be accessed at <https://templates.office.com/>. Simply go to the site and click on “Timelines.” You will find a variety of templates that you can use to make entries and create a personal or family timeline.
Direct link: <https://templates.office.com/en-us/Timelines>
- **TeAchnology – the Online Teacher Resource:** This website provides online teacher resources and includes a simple, easy-to-use Time Line Generator that can be filled in with several entries. This is a great tool to begin your efforts in making a timeline.
Direct link: www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/materials/timeline/
- **ReadWriteThink:** Another excellent electronic resource and tool for creating a personal or family timeline is available through ReadWriteThink, which also provides learning resources online. The tool for creating a timeline is described at www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/games-tools/timeline-a-30246.html.
Direct link: www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/timeline_2/
- The following links also provide free online resources for creating a timeline:
 - Capzles – www.capzles.com/
 - Dipity – www.dipity.com/
 - OurStory.com – www.ourstory.com/
 - ReadWriteThink – www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/timeline_2/
 - Tiki-Toki – www.tiki-toki.com/
 - TimeGlider – <http://timeglider.com/>
 - TimeToast – www.timetoast.com/

Entries for Family Timeline

Birth Date and Place

Date _____

Birth of Younger Sibling

Date _____

Birth of Younger Sibling

Date _____

Important Religious Events in Childhood

Date _____

Going to School for the First Time

Date _____

Memory of First Birthday Experience

Date _____

A Summer Memory in Childhood

Date _____

A Memorable Family Activity

Date _____

A Memorable Family Vacation

Date _____

An Award or Achievement in Childhood

Date _____

My Participation in Sports

Date _____

An Important School Experience

Date _____

Completion of School

Date _____

A Meaningful Job Experience

Date _____

Going on My First Date

Date _____

A Meaningful Job Experience

Date _____

Courtship and Engagement

Date _____

Birth of My First Child

Date _____

My Wedding

Date _____

Birth of Another Child

Date _____

Honeymoon Memories

Date _____

Birth of Another Child

Date _____

First Home

Date _____

Other Significant Events or Memories

Date _____
