

SOCIAL STUDIES · GRADES 5–6

Timeline of World History

30 events that changed the world

From 3000 BCE to today

c.3000 BCE — First writing systems (Mesopotamia, Egypt).

c.2560 BCE — Great Pyramid of Giza built.

c.776 BCE — First Olympic Games in ancient Greece.

c.500 BCE — Buddhism and Confucianism take root in Asia.

c.221 BCE — China unified under the Qin dynasty.

c.27 BCE — Roman Empire established.

c.476 CE — Western Roman Empire falls.

c.622 — Muhammad's hijra; Islamic calendar begins.

c.1066 — Norman conquest of England.

c.1206 — Genghis Khan founds the Mongol Empire.

c.1325 — Aztec city of Tenochtitlán founded.

c.1453 — Constantinople falls; Ottoman Empire rises.

c.1492 — Columbus sails west across the Atlantic.

c.1517 — Protestant Reformation begins.



c.1607 — First permanent English settlement in N. America (Jamestown).

c.1750 — Industrial Revolution begins in Britain.

c.1776 — American Declaration of Independence.

c.1789 — French Revolution begins.

c.1804 — Haiti becomes the first nation founded by formerly enslaved people.

c.1865 — Slavery abolished in the United States.

c.1903 — First powered flight (Wright brothers).

c.1914–18 — World War I.

c.1939–45 — World War II.

c.1947 — India independence and partition.

c.1969 — Apollo 11 lands on the Moon.

c.1989 — Berlin Wall falls; Cold War ends.

c.1990 — Nelson Mandela released; apartheid ends in S. Africa.

c.1991 — World Wide Web becomes public.

c.2007 — First iPhone — start of smartphone era.

c.2020 — COVID-19 pandemic begins.

