

*A timeline by
Sarah Witmer*

B.C.

4000 Cuneiform, one of the earliest known writing systems, is developed in Sumer. It is quickly put to good use: the world's first known love letter is written in Cuneiform. (Pictured right)



3800 The Bronze Age begins in ancient civilizations about this time. Tools and weapons created change the way wars are fought and crops are grown.

3500 The first evidence of wheel use in Sumer. Although there is evidence that other groups also used wheels, Sumerians use them for wheeled vehicles.

3200 Egyptian Hieroglyphics are used. (Pictured right)



3000 The first iron and metal mirrors in Egypt are created.

2630 The oldest pyramid in Egypt is built. The use of manpower and technology dawns a new age in ancient architecture.

1750 Hammurabi's Code is established. The Code creates a new way for rulers to organize their kingdoms and keep their people under control through punishment. (Pictured right)



1500 Chinese logographic writing appears from pictographs evolving into alphabets. This form of writing evolves into the modern kanji the Chinese and Japanese people use today.

1300 Chariots are a main staple in ancient life at this time. Chariots are used for battle, recreation, and transportation. The Iron Age begins in the East, creating better tools for battle and agriculture.

1280 A peace treaty is recorded between Ramses II of Egypt and Hattusili III of the Hittites. Forevermore, treaties will stop war just as much as they start it.

1276 The Gaocheng Astronomical Observatory is built China. (Pictured right)

850 Homer's Iliad and Odyssey are written around this time. Homer creates a new style of literature that writers still try to imitate today.

776 The first recorded Olympic Games are held in Olympia, Greece.

760 The Nubian Dynasty of Egypt comes into power, creating a time of restoration of historical texts and architecture.



650 Etruscan culture is dominant in much of modern day Italy and leads to the birth of Rome.

624 Buddha is born around this time and will come to be the creator of a religion based around meditation and reflection: Buddhism.

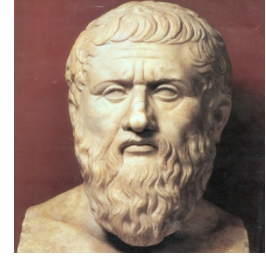
600 An Indian surgeon performs cataract surgery.

580 The Mayan calendar is created.

570 If the legend of Lao Tzu is true, he is born around this time. Lao Tzu is credited with being the creator of Daoism: a religion believing life has a natural flow of opposite forces; good and evil; positive and negative.



551 Confucius, the Chinese philosopher, is born into a world of feudalism and turbulence and grows to emphasize honesty, morality, and integrity. (Pictured right) It is said that when Confucius worked for the government in a village in China, if someone dropped a purse in the street, it would sit there until its owner claimed it.



508 Athenian democracy develops and the Roman Republic is created. The Republic will grow to create advanced laws for citizenship.

500 Darius I the Great of the Persian Empire imposes a regulated tax system.

469 Socrates is born around this time and will introduce a new world in Athens: a world of philosophy and human capability.

460 Hippocrates is born around this time. He revolutionizes the study of medicine with the belief that every disease has a rational explanation and is not just a punishment from the gods.



428 Plato is born around this time. (Pictured right) A student of Socrates, Plato develops his own philosophy based on his teacher's. He emphasizes thinking for oneself.

400 Persians create an ice cream-like dessert. Greek militiamen are credited with creating the first kind of catapult.



397 The Greek army uses a new tool while fighting a battle against Motya: an early version of the crossbow. (Pictured right)

384 Aristotle is born around this time. A student of Plato, it is believed that Aristotle was the teacher of the future Emperor, Alexander the Great.

310 "All roads lead to Rome." The Romans build paved roads ranging from North Africa to Europe, all leading to the Empire's center: Rome.

312 One of the oldest Roman aqueducts, the Aqua Appia, is built. (Pont du Gard aqueduct pictured right)



270 Advanced mechanized water clocks are created in Rome.

221 The Great Wall of China begins construction for protection from the Huns.

206 The Silk Road winds through the Western Han Dynasty territories, allowing civilizations to more openly trade goods and cultures.

204 The Yellow Emperor of China compiles a book on acupuncture.

44 Emperor Julius Caesar is assassinated by his own senate.

4 Christ is born and his followers start Christianity, which will eventually become the main religion of the Roman Empire and later, medieval Europe. (Nativity scene pictured right)



A.D.

70 The Colosseum is built reflecting Roman architecture and culture. Much of the recreation, such as Gladiator fights, takes place in the Colosseum.

105 Using different natural resources, new kinds of paper are invented in China.

122 Hadrian's Wall is built across the width of Britain as a man-made boundary to separate the Roman territories from Celtic tribes.

300 Indian craftsmen associations are created as some of the first worker's guilds.

312 Constantine, Emperor of Rome, adopts Christianity and declares it the official state religion.

325 The original version of the Nicene Creed is created by the First Council of Nicaea. The creed is made so that the different sects of Christianity will not break apart due to disagreements in Christian beliefs. (Pictured right)

500 A machine similar to the windmill is used in Persia, allegedly for water pumping.

532 Emperor Justinian's contribution to Constantinople, the Hagia Sophia cathedral, is built and becomes famous for how quickly it is constructed, as well as for the beautiful designs that decorate the inside and out. (Pictured right)

570 Muhammad is born and later creates the Muslim religion.

587 Spain's King Raccared I converts to Catholicism. The rest of the country is soon to follow.

747 Emperor Xuanzong of China (Pictured right) has the Cool Hall built in the imperial palace: a room with a water powered fan that is said to be the first air conditioner.

794 Machines devoted to making paper are created in Baghdad, reflecting the ideas of modern-day paper mills

800 *The Book of Kells* is created by Irish monks. The beautiful artwork of the book (Pictured right) reflects their practice of protecting art and literature from the Dark Ages and outside invaders.

850 Gunpowder is invented by a Chinese alchemist.

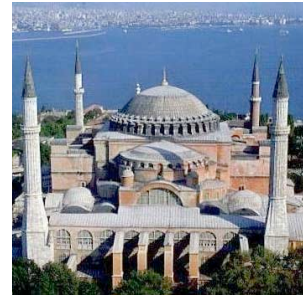
1000 The Romanesque period, a stylized period of art and architecture, begins in Europe. A Japanese woman by the name of Murasaki Shikibu writes *The Tale of Genji*, often considered to be the first novel ever written. (Pictured right)

1040 In a Chinese book, a magnetic device that is supposed to help travelers orient themselves is mentioned. This device is one of the first known prototypes for a navigational compass.

1076 Henry IV of the Holy Roman Empire is excommunicated by the Pope and forced to beg repentance standing in the snow (Pictured right). This is an example to all future rulers of the power of the Pope.

1096 European Christians embark on the first crusade to the Holy Land to take it from Muslim hands. This leads to more crusades and battles to come as the two groups wrestle to maintain control of a small area in the Middle East.

1100 Forks are invented around this time and are prized possessions. Previously, only hands and knives were used as eating utensils.



1160 The research-based University of Paris is founded.

1151 Fire and plague “insurance” is sold in Iceland.

1160 The Parisian cathedral Saint-Étienne is demolished to make way for the Notre Dame de Paris, a cathedral reflecting the beauty of Gothic Architecture. (Pictured right)

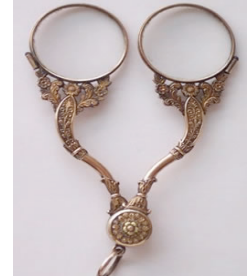


1167 King Henry II of England bans English students from attending the University of Paris, pushing the small school of Oxford to become Oxford University.

1209 Scholars seek refuge in the city of Cambridge, England, and found Cambridge University.

1237 Adam de la Halle, composer of one of the oldest secular music theater pieces known (Le Jeu de Robin et Marion), is born.

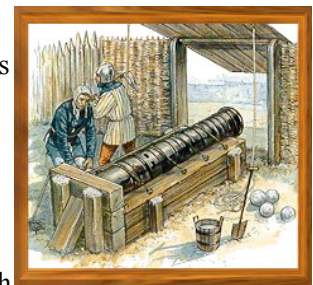
1284 The Italian Salvino D’Armato creates wearable eyeglasses. (Pictured right)



1300 Guy de Chauliac, future physician of the Pope, is born. He is one of the few people to survive catching the plague during an epidemic. He is the first to distinguish between the Bubonic and Pneumonic Plagues.

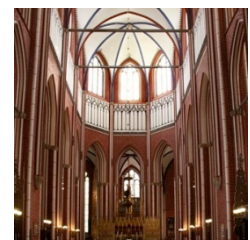
1343 The English author and philosopher Geoffrey Chaucer is born. Chaucer uses French, Italian, and old English writing styles to create something completely his own, including ironic, humorous epic poetry.

1346 English cannons are used during the Hundred Years’ War. (Pictured right)



1357 The Bethlem Royal Hospital in London admits some mentally ill patients for the first time. This hospital soon becomes a full time psychiatric hospital, which is greatly needed in London, where the majority of the population is poor, undernourished, and arguably crazy.

1368 Doberaner Münster in Germany is built reflecting Gothic architectural and technological ideas that come to be popular when building European churches. (Pictured right)



1419 The Ospedale degli Innocenti (a children’s orphanage), receives commission in Florence, Italy. At a time when poverty, the plague and other diseases are a constant threat, an orphanage is a necessary institution.

1492 Christopher Columbus lands in North America on an attempted voyage to India during the Age of Exploration.

1502 The Atlantic slave trade begins to grow as a business.

1503 Leonardo da Vinci, a true Renaissance man living at the height of the Renaissance, paints the Mona Lisa, one of the most famous works coming from this period. Besides being a master painter, da Vinci is an expert sculptor, knows more than most doctors about anatomy, and thinks of machines that others get credit for inventing centuries later, such as the tank and a flying machine. (Pictured right)



1526 Martin Luther, a German priest, begins to create his own church, the Lutheran church, breaking away from the papacy with the belief that it is corrupt.

1530 The Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto leads an expedition up the Yucatán Peninsula. This is one of his many explorations in the New World.

1539 Francisco Vázquez de Coronado sets off on an expedition to find cities made of gold in the modern-day Mexico and southern United States territories.

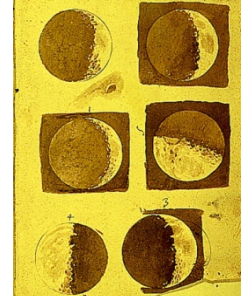
1540 Some of the oldest nautical astrolabes known today are invented in Portugal for navigation. (Pictured right)



1543 Nicolaus Copernicus, a Polish astronomer, publishes “On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Bodies” as one of the first works of the Scientific Revolution.

1553 As an early form of government censorship, Pope Julius III orders a mass-burning of the Jewish Talmud for containing “anti-Christian” passages.

1564 Galileo, the Italian physicist and astronomer is born. He will create a new kind of telescope with which he first observes Jupiter’s moons, as well as many other discoveries. (Pictured right) Shakespeare, the famed English playwright, is born two months after Galileo and goes on to be famous for his witty, humorous, and tragic plays.



1571 Spanish doctor Nicolas Monárdes writes a book on medicinal plants of the new world, and boasts the medicinal importance of tobacco.

1590 A Chinese-Japanese dictionary using woodblock printing is created in Japan.

1620 The Mayflower leaves England and heads to the New World. (Pictured right)

1643 Isaac Newton, a British physicist, is born. It is said that during a plague epidemic, he fled to the countryside, where he first conceptualized the idea of gravity.



1685 George Frideric Handl and Johann Sebastian Bach, both German composers, are born and revolutionize a new era of refined entertainment of symphonies and sonatas.

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Other photos by my family