



Personal Time Line

Make a time line that represents your life.

Introduction:

Students have to agree upon significant events in their lives and make a time-line of this information.

Materials:

Adding machine tape

Rulers

Pens

To do and notice:

This activity should be done in groups of 2 or more participants.

Have participants think about 6 or 7 keys phases or events in their lives. These events should be turning points or life changing things. However, the rule is that all members of the group have to have experienced the same phase or event and the timing of this event needs to be the same for all members. Birth is a given and doesn't not have to be counted in the 6 or 7 events.

Example of things that a group might agree on:

Going to Middle School

Going to Elementary School

Going to High School

Learning to Driving

Riding a bike

Driving

If any member of the group did not experience the same event or experience it within the same time period of their life, this can't be used.

Once the members have agreed upon their 6 or 7 events or phases:

1. For all events choose one word that describes the event (i.e. driving).
2. Take that word and add "ian" to the end of the word. Alternatively one can add "zoic" to the end of the word; this suffix pertains to animals or animal life (drivium)
3. Groups should pick thee most important event on their list. This one word is the main event or turning point in their lives.
4. For your most important word: You will divide your life into two divisions the "pre" important word and post important word. You can do this by adding the suffix "Pre" to your word (i.e. Pre-Drivium and Drivium).

Make your time line:

Students should cut register tape to the length of one group member's out stretched arms. Scale this paper to represents your group's life. This can be done by folding the paper in half as many times as needed. For example, if the paper is folded in half twice, it will

have 4 sections. If a student is 16 years old, the first section will represent their age until 4 years old. The left side is birth and the right side is now.

Divide the paper in half lengthwise (horizontally) with a line

This will let you divide your time line into eons and eras. Pick the upper half to be your eons. In this area place your "most important word" and "Pre-most important word" from step 3 and 4 above, should be placed on one side of the time-line in its appropriate scaled location.

All other events should be placed in their appropriate location on the bottom of the horizontal line.

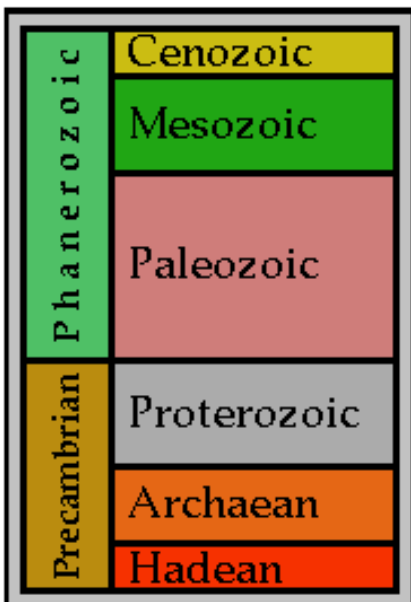


When done, every group should present their time line to the class.

So What:

You made a time line. This scale is useful to reference all events in your life. You also had to agree on the significance of each event and the relative position of these episodes.

Geologists use a scale that is very similar. Theirs is called a Geologic Time line. It took years and years of observation and communication between geologists to agree on a useful scale for earth's history. They break theirs into eons, eras, period and epochs.



There are a bunch of very useful sites on the web to find out about the history and uses of geologic time lines.

Great resources for geology and paleontology information:

-University of California museum of Paleontology
www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/exhibit/geology.html

-United States Geologic Survey:
www.usgs.gov

-Personal Timeline with your body
<http://igs.indiana.edu/geology/ancient/personaltimeline/index.cfm>

Graphic from:
 University of California Museum of Paleontology