

History: Introduction

What is history?

History is *the study of the past*. A *person who studies history* is called a **historian**.

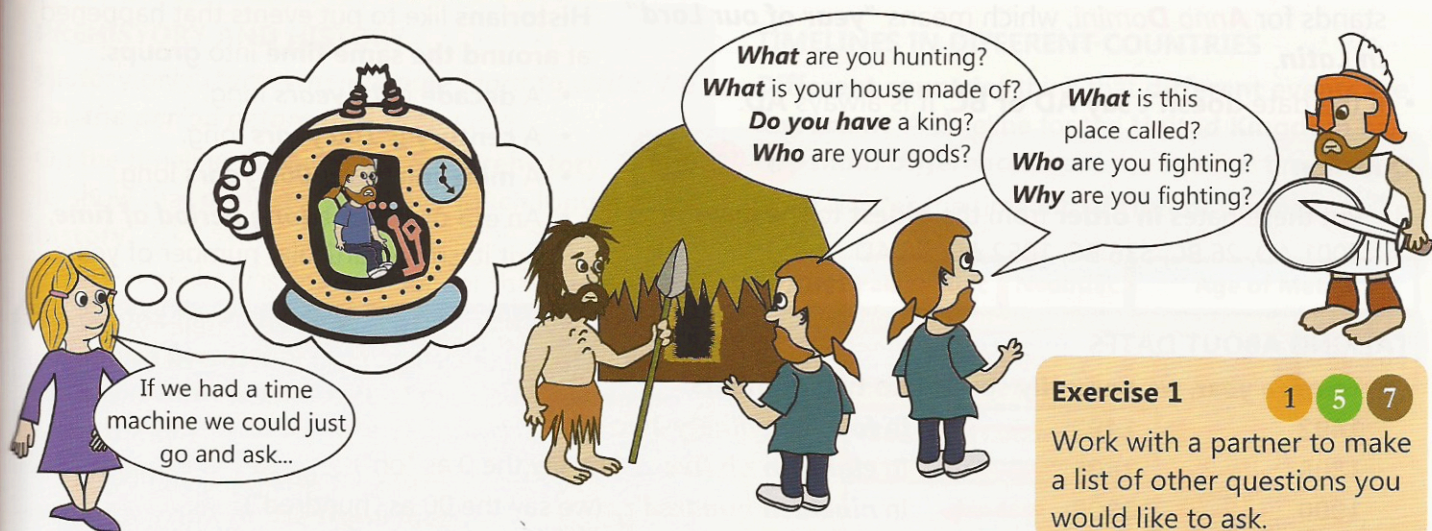
WHAT ARE HISTORIANS INTERESTED IN?

- How people lived.
- Important events in the past.

WHY DO WE STUDY HISTORY?

- History helps us to **understand more about ourselves**. It tells us **where we come from**, and explains our **culture** and **traditions**.
- You are part of history. In the **future**, historians will be interested in **your life**.

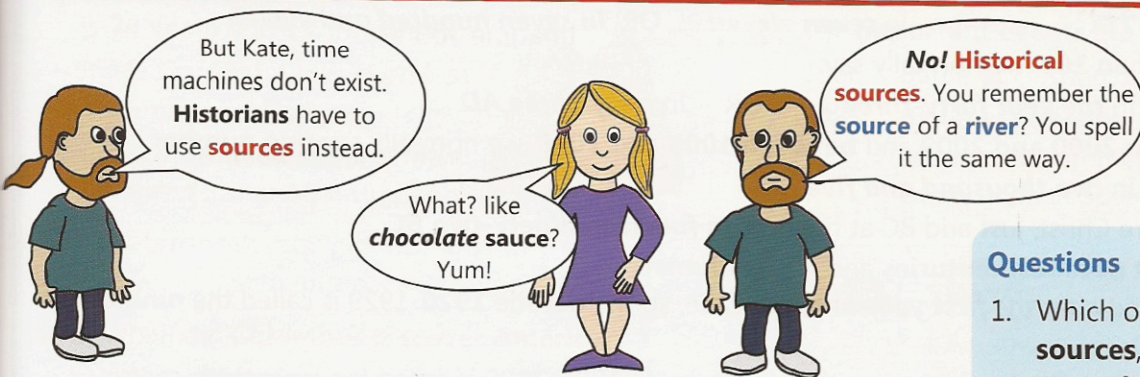
HOW DO HISTORIANS STUDY THE PAST?



Exercise 1

1 5 7

Work with a partner to make a list of other questions you would like to ask.



HISTORICAL SOURCES

A **source** is *anything that gives us information about the past*.

There are **two types of sources**:

- **Primary source** – *a source from the same time as, or very soon after, the period we want to study*. Buildings, tools, diaries, letters, interviews, photos and videos are all examples of primary sources.
- **Secondary source** – *a source created later by someone who was not there* when the things we are studying happened. *History books* and *biographies* are secondary sources. So are *textbooks* (like this one!).

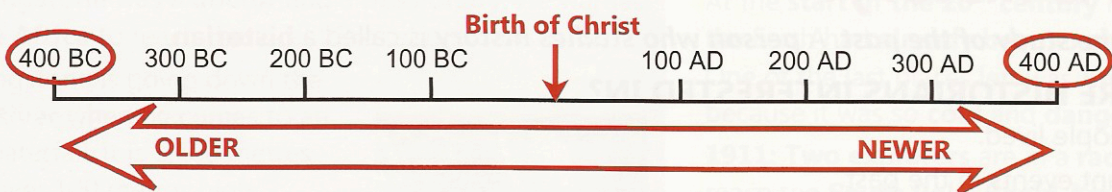
Questions

1 5 7

1. Which of these are **primary sources**, and which are **secondary sources**?
 - a) a Roman bridge
 - b) a book about Roman bridges written by a historian
 - c) a biography of Picasso
 - d) an interview with Picasso
2. Are historians only interested in important events? Explain your answer.

How do historians count time?

When we talk about the **past**, we need to say **when things happened**. Normally we say the **year** – for example, “Spain won the football world cup in 2010”. What does 2010 mean? Well, our **calendar** starts with the **birth of Christ** in **year 1**, so 2010 means “2010 years after the birth of Christ”. What do we do about things that happened **before Christ was born**? Easy! We **count backwards** from his birth, like this:



Now we have **two different years** called **400** – how do we know **which one** we are talking about?

AD is not the same as AC in Spanish.
Remember: BC = before Christ
AD = after Christ

- For things that happened **before Christ** was born, we add **BC** to the number.
- For things that happened **after Christ**, we add **AD**. AD stands for **Anno Domini**, which means “**year of our Lord**” in Latin.
- If the date **doesn’t say AD or BC**, it is always **AD**.

Question

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2

7

3. Put these dates **in order** from the **oldest** to the **newest**:
2001 AD, 26 BC, 536 BC, 1052 AD, 56 AD

GROUPING DATES

Historians like to put events that happened at **around the same time** into **groups**:

- A **decade** is **10 years** long.
- A **century** is **100 years** long.
- A **millennium** is **1000 years** long.
- An **era** or **age** is a **long period of time**, but it isn’t a particular number of years.

TALKING ABOUT DATES

- To say a **year**, we **normally** split it into **two numbers**:
1492 → 1492 → In **fourteen ninety-two**
1805 → 1805 → In **eighteen oh five** (we say the 0 as “oh”)
1900 → 1900 → In **nineteen hundred** (we say the 00 as “hundred”)
- **Between 100 and 1000**, we can **either** split the year into **two numbers** or say it as **one number**:
711 → 711 → In **seven eleven** OR In **seven hundred and eleven**
- For years **lower than 100**, we normally say:
43 → In **the year forty-three** OR In **forty-three AD**
- For years **between 2000 and 2009** and **between 1000 and 1009**, we normally say **one number**:
2005 → In **two thousand and five**
- If the year is before Christ, just add BC at the end: **In fourteen ninety-two BC**

How do we talk about **decades**, **centuries** and **millenniums**?

- **Decades** are named after the **first year** of the decade, so the decade **1920-1929** is called the **nineteen-twenties** (or **1920s**).
- **Centuries** are named after the **last year** of the century, so 1901-2000 is called the **twentieth** century.
- **Millenniums** are named after their **last year**, so 1001-2000 is called the **second** millennium.

Question

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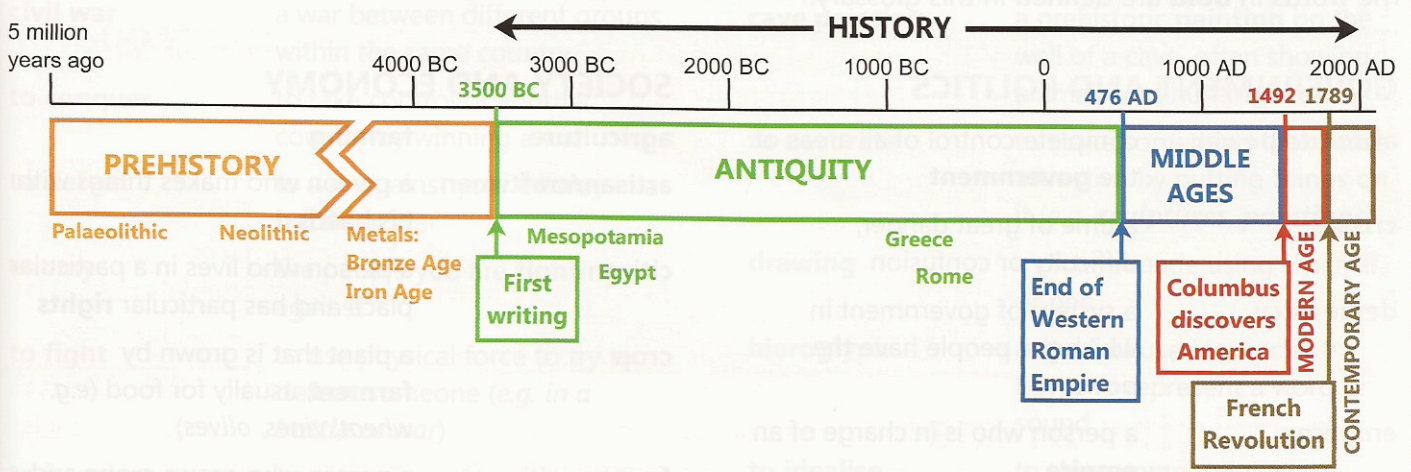
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4. Copy the table and fill in the gaps:

Century	From Year	To Year	Century	From Year	To Year
1st (First) century AD	1	100	10th (Tenth) century AD	★★★★	★★★★
2nd (Second) century AD	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★★★★	1501	1600
★★★★★★★★	201	300	★★★★★★★★	1701	1800
4th (Fourth) century AD	★★★★	★★★★	20th (Twentieth) century AD	1901	2000

Timelines

Timelines help us to *show when things happen in history visually*. They can show **periods** and **individual events**. The **periods** we choose depend on what we think are the **most important events in history**.



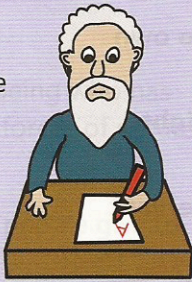
PREHISTORY AND HISTORY

History only *starts when people learn to write*. We call *the period before that prehistory*.

On the timeline there is a in **prehistory**. This is to show that **prehistory is really much longer than history**.

In fact, prehistory is so much longer than history that it wouldn't fit on the page. To give you an idea of **how long prehistory is**, imagine the **life of a man who was born at the start of prehistory and who is 80 today**.

- When he is a **baby**, he already knows how to **use stone tools**.
- He only **learns to write** when he is **79 years and 11 months** old.
- In his life, **Christ was born less than two weeks ago**.
- In his life, **television was only invented** about **10 hours ago**.



TIMELINES IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

Different countries think that **different events are important**. A timeline for the **United Kingdom** has **two main differences** from the Spanish timeline:

1. It divides the time into **different periods**:

SPAIN	Palaeolithic	Neolithic	Age of Metals
UK	Stone Age		Bronze Age
UK	Iron Age		

SPAIN	Modern	Contemporary
UK	Modern	

In the UK, they don't talk about the Contemporary Age.
2. The **important events** are different in the UK:
1066: Battle of Hastings
1485: Battle of Bosworth Field (start of the Modern Age in the UK – seven years earlier than in Spain)

Questions

5. a) When did **Columbus discover America**?
b) Which **millennium** was it?
c) Which **century** was it?
d) Which **decade** was it?
6. a) When did **prehistory end**?
b) Which **millennium** was it?
7. In **Spain**, what event is at the start of the **modern age**?
8. In **Spain**, what event is at the start of the **contemporary age**?
9. Which **two periods in Spain** are equivalent to the **Stone Age in the UK**?
10. Which period is **longer**, **history** or **prehistory**?

1 2 7

Exercise 2

1 4 5 6 7

- A. In pairs, practise asking **questions** about **dates** on the timeline.
When did Columbus discover America?
In fourteen ninety-two.
- B. In the **UK**, **everyone** knows what happened in **1066**, but not in Spain. Use the **Internet** to find out what happened at the **Battle of Hastings** (1066) and the **Battle of Bosworth Field** (1485).

History glossary

In the history part of this book there is lots of new vocabulary to learn. Here is a list of words that will help you to understand the rest of the book. Remember to look here if you don't understand something.

The words in **bold** are defined in this glossary.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

absolute power	complete control of all areas of the government
crisis	a time of great danger, difficulty or confusion
democracy	a system of government in which the people have the power
emperor	a person who is in charge of an empire
empire	a group of countries with one ruler
to found	to create a new city or town
to govern	to administer a country and its people
government	a group of people that governs a country
king/queen	a male/female ruler of an independent country
kingdom	a country with a king or queen
law	a rule that applies to a particular type of crime
monarchy	the system of government in a kingdom
to obey	to do what you are told to do
oligarchy	a country governed by a small group of powerful people
to overthrow	to remove someone from power, using force
to persecute	to treat somebody unfairly because of their religious views or political beliefs
republic	a country without a king or queen
to rule	to be in charge of a country
ruler	the person in charge of a country
throne	a special chair used by a king or queen

SOCIETY AND ECONOMY

agriculture	farming
artisan/craftsman	a person who makes things with his hands
citizen	a person who lives in a particular place and has particular rights
crop	a plant that is grown by farmers , usually for food (e.g. <i>wheat, vines, olives</i>)
farmer	a person who grows crops and keeps animals
farming	growing crops and keeping animals
to irrigate	to supply water to the land so that crops will grow
labourer	a person who is paid to do physical work
merchant	a person who buys and sells things
noble	a person from an important family
to own	to possess something (e.g. <i>a house, land, slaves</i>)
rights	freedom to do certain things that other people can't do
servant	a person who does cooking, cleaning, etc. for another person
slave	a person who is owned by, and must work for, another person
social class/group	a group of people in a society who have similar rights, wealth and power (e.g. <i>the merchant class, the servant class</i>)
trade	buying and selling (or exchanging) things
wealth	the amount of money and property that a person has

WAR

army	an organized group of soldiers
battle	a single fight between two armies
civil war	a war between different groups within the same country
to conquer	to take control of another country by winning a war
to defeat	to win against your enemy in a battle or war
enemy	the people you are fighting against
to fight	to use physical force to try to defeat someone (e.g. in a battle or war)
to invade	to enter a country with an army
peace	the situation when there is no war or violence in a country
rebellion	an attempt to change the government using violence
soldier/warrior	a person who fights in the army when there is a war
to surrender	to stop fighting and admit that you have been defeated
weapon	an object that is used for fighting or hunting (e.g. a <i>sword or spear</i>)

RELIGION

god	a supernatural being who has power over the forces of nature
goddess	a female god
offering	something that people give to the gods
priest	a person who leads religious ceremonies
religious ceremony	a formal event in honour of the gods
ritual	a thing that people always do in the same way when they worship their gods
to sacrifice	to kill an animal in a special way for the gods
spirits	imaginary beings with magic powers
temple	a house for the gods
to worship	to show respect for a god by praying and performing rituals

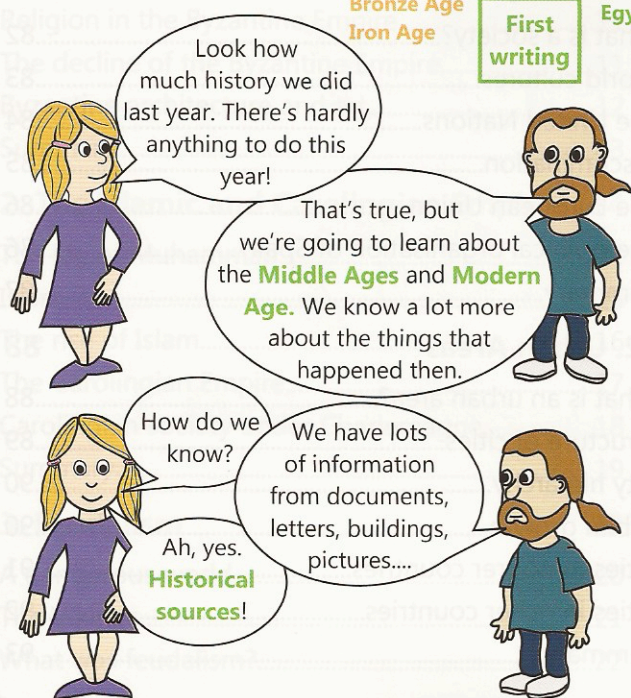
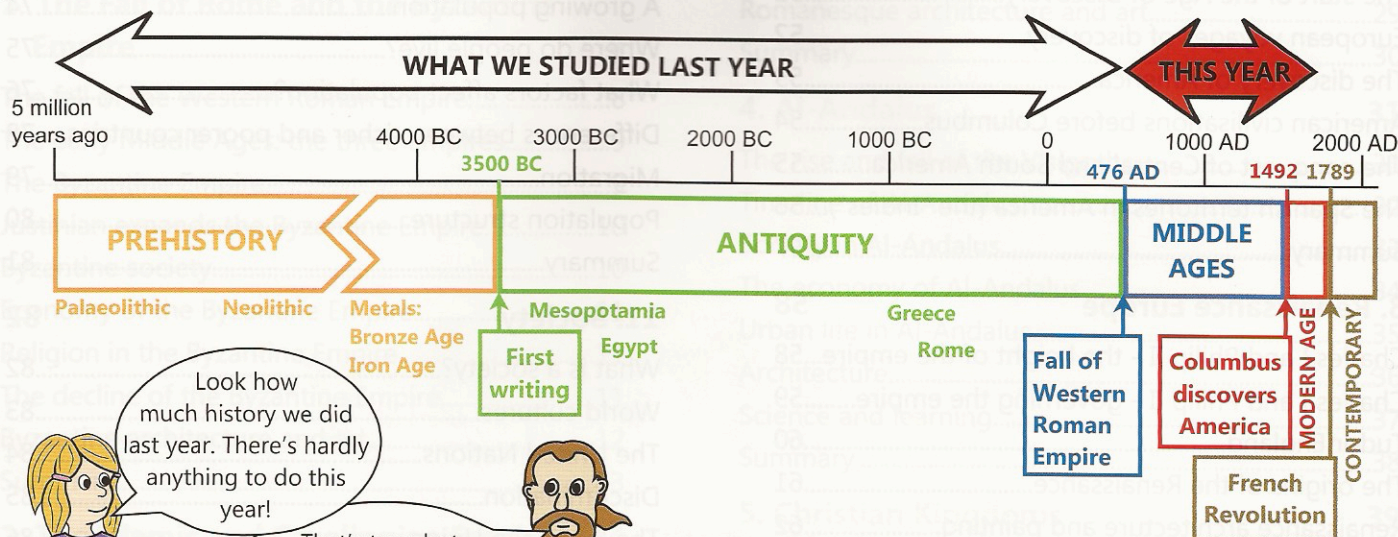
ART AND ARCHITECTURE

abstract	not showing people or things in a realistic way
architecture	the design of buildings
cave painting	a prehistoric painting on the wall of a cave, often showing animals and hunting scenes
to decorate	to make something look more attractive by putting things on it (e.g. sculptures , paintings)
drawing	a picture made using a pencil or pen
hieroglyph	a symbol used in Ancient Egypt to represent a word or sound
to idealise	to show somebody or something as being perfect
jewellery	objects that people wear as decoration (e.g. <i>rings, bracelets, necklaces</i>)
monument	a building or statue built to remind people of a famous person or event
mosaic	a picture made from small pieces of glass and stone of different colours
painting	a picture that is made with paint
pottery	objects made of clay that are baked in an oven to make them go hard
realistic	showing things as they are in real life
relief	a decoration made by cutting designs into the surface of stone
to represent	to be a symbol of something
sculpture	a work of art that is a solid figure made by carving wood, stone or metal
statue	a sculpture of a person or an animal
symbol	a person or an object that represents a more general quality
tomb	a place where you bury people when they die
ziggurat	a temple in Mesopotamia

History: Introduction

What will we study and how?

Timelines show when things happen in history. They can show **periods** and **individual events**. The **timeline** below shows the different **periods of prehistory and history** that we studied last year, and the periods that we are going to study this year.



HISTORICAL SOURCES

A **source** is **anything that gives us information about the past**. There are **two types** of sources:

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- **Secondary source** – **a source created later by someone who was not there when the things we are studying happened**. History books and biographies are secondary sources. So are textbooks (like this one!).

Questions

1 5 7

Look at the **timeline** and answer the questions;

1. How many years did we cover **last year**?
a) About 3 million b) About 4 million c) About 5 million
2. How many years will we cover **this year**?
a) About 800 b) About 1300 c) About 2000
3. **Prehistory ends** and **history starts** when **people start doing something**. Do you remember what?
4. What event represents the **end of Antiquity** and the **start of the Middle Ages**?
5. Which of these are **primary sources**, and which are **secondary sources**?
a) A book about cathedrals written by a historian
b) Christopher Columbus' diary

Exercise

1 2 7

Choose **five historical events** from the timeline on the opposite page. Write down:

- what year they happened
- the century
- the decade

Then work in pairs. Tell your partner about what happened and when. For example:

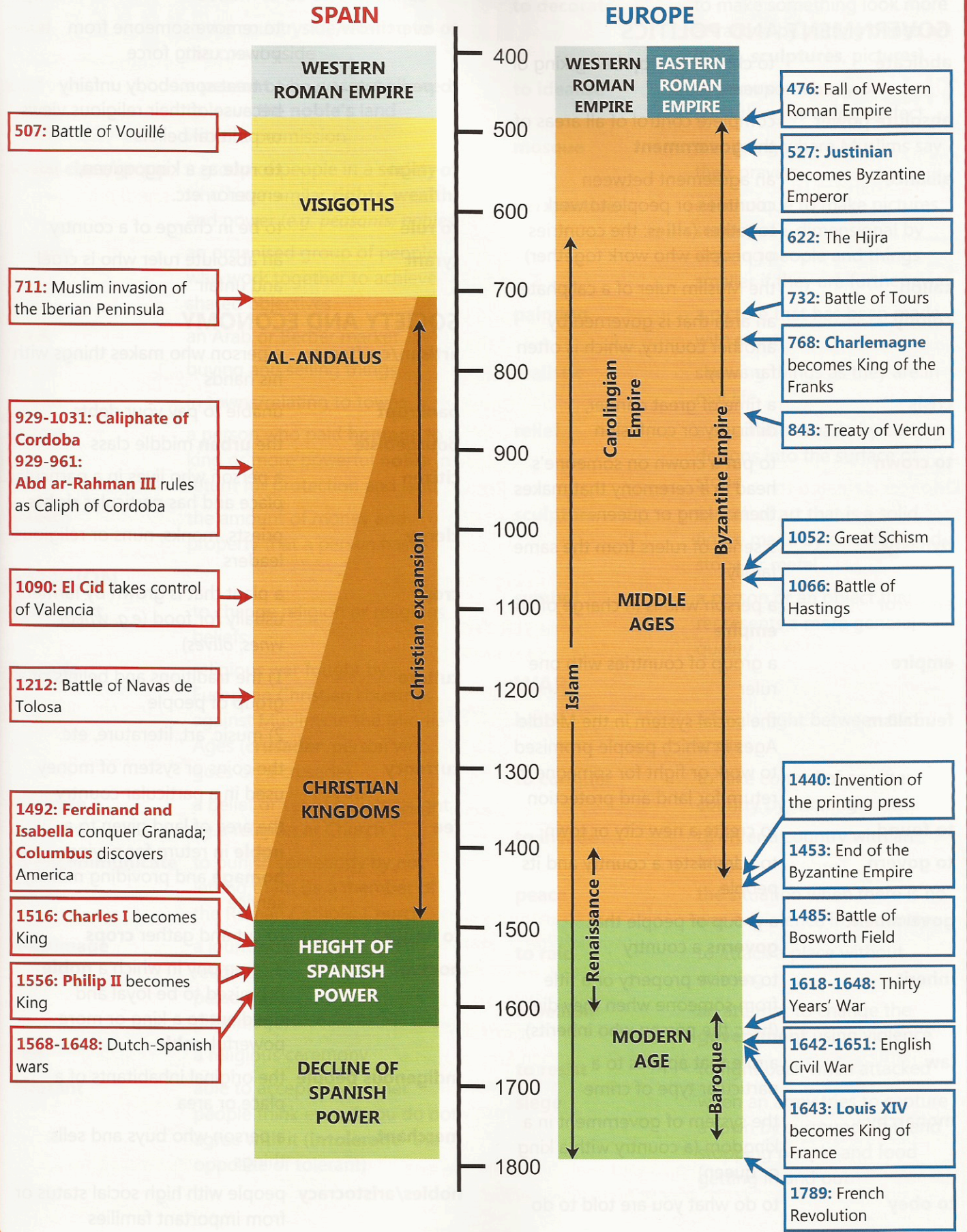
"In fourteen ninety-two, Columbus discovered America."

"The Battle of Vouillé was in five oh seven."

"The Battle of Hastings was in the eleventh century."

Timelines for the period covered by this book

In this book, we will be studying the **Middle Ages** and the **Modern Age**. This period **starts with the fall of the Western Roman Empire**, and **ends in the 18th century**. The two timelines below show some of the most important events in Spanish and European history during this period.



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GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

abdicate	to choose to stop being king or queen
absolute power	complete control of all areas of the government
alliance	an agreement between countries or people to work together (allies : the countries or people who work together)
caliph	the Muslim ruler of a caliphate
colony	an area that is governed by another country, which is often far away
crisis	a time of great danger, difficulty or confusion
to crown	to put a crown on someone's head in a ceremony that makes them a king or queen
dynasty	a series of rulers from the same family
emperor	a person who is in charge of an empire
empire	a group of countries with one ruler
feudalism	the social system in the Middle Ages in which people promised to work or fight for someone in return for land and protection
to found	to create a new city or town
to govern	to administer a country and its people
government	a group of people that governs a country
inherit	to receive property or a title from someone when they die (heir : the person who inherits)
law	a rule that applies to a particular type of crime
monarchy	the system of government in a kingdom (a country with a king or queen)
to obey	to do what you are told to do

to overthrow

to remove someone from power, using force

to persecute

to treat somebody unfairly because of their religious views or political beliefs

to reign

to rule as a king, queen, emperor, etc.

to rule

to be in charge of a country

tyrant

an absolute ruler who is cruel and unfair

SOCIETY AND ECONOMY

artisan/craftsman	a person who makes things with his hands
bankrupt	unable to pay your debts
bourgeoisie	the urban middle class
citizen	a person who lives in a particular place and has particular rights
clergy	priests, monks, nuns or religious leaders
crop	a plant that is grown by farmers, usually for food (e.g. <i>wheat, vines, olives</i>)
culture	1) the traditions and beliefs of a group of people 2) music, art, literature, etc.
currency	the coins or system of money used in a particular country
fee	the area of land given to a noble in return for paying homage and providing military service
to harvest	to cut and gather crops
homage	a ceremony in which a noble promised to be loyal and obedient to a king or more powerful noble
indigenous people	the original inhabitants of a place or area
merchant	a person who buys and sells things
nobles/aristocracy	people with high social status or from important families

peasant	a poor farmer who rents a small piece of land
privileges	special rights that certain groups of people have
rights	freedom to do certain things
rural	in the countryside/relating to the countryside
serf	a peasant who was not allowed to leave the noble's land without permission
social class/group	a group of people in a society who have similar rights, wealth and power (e.g. <i>peasants, nobles</i>)
society	an organised group of people who work together to achieve shared objectives
souk	an Arab or Berber market
trade	buying and selling things
urban	in towns/relating to towns
vassal	a person who paid homage to a king or more powerful noble in return for protection and land
wealth	the amount of money and property that a person has

RELIGION

to convert	to change religion or religious beliefs
crusade	religious war fought by European Christian countries against Muslims in the Middle Ages (crusader : person who goes on a crusade)
doctrine	a belief or set of beliefs taught by a religion or Church
to excommunicate	to punish somebody by not letting them be a member of the Roman Catholic Church
pilgrimage	a journey to a holy place for religious reasons (pilgrim : person who goes on a pilgrimage)
rite	a religious ceremony
tolerant	able to accept what other people think even if you do not agree with it (intolerant : the opposite of tolerant)

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

abstract	not showing people or things in a realistic way
architecture	the design of buildings
to decorate	to make something look more attractive by putting things on it (e.g. sculptures , pictures)
to idealise	to show somebody or something as being perfect
mosque	a building where Muslims say their prayers
perspective	a technique to make pictures seem three-dimensional by drawing people and things smaller if they are further away
painting	a picture that has been made with paint
realistic	showing things as they are in real life
relief	a decoration made by cutting designs into the surface of stone
sculpture	a work of art that is a solid figure made by carving wood, stone or metal
symbol	a person or an object that represents a more general quality

WAR

battle	a single fight between two armies
to conquer	to take control of another country by winning a war
to invade	to enter a country with an army
peace	the situation when there is no war or violence in a country
to raid	to attack a place without warning
rebellion	an attempt to change the government using violence
to resist	to fight back when attacked
siege	when an army tries to capture a town by surrounding it and stopping people and food getting in and out