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Annotated Timeline

An annotated timeline is like a timeline with notes of explanation as well as dates from a period of time studied. Like all timelines, the annotated timeline features dates but adds creative ideas, including illustrations, quotes, analysis, biographical sketches, maps, charts, drawings, concepts, and short essays. Students design their timelines around some unifying illustration or theme. For example, the entire timeline might be presented on the Berlin Wall, a nuclear missile, or a map of the world divided between America and the U.S.S.R.

Instructions:

Have students research and define important concepts, ideas, events, people, and places about a specific time period. These ideas may be chosen by the teacher.

Students may choose from the following list of ideas to be included on their annotated timelines:

Important dates, people, and events with short explanations

Quotes and explanation of their importance

Create an editorial cartoon

Create maps, charts, drawings, or illustrations

An interview with a character from the time period

Short newspaper story about a topic, event, or person

Poetry about topics, events, people

Letter to the editor or editorial

A horizontal line with five vertical lines extending downwards from it. Each vertical line is connected to a rectangular box, providing a space for students to write or draw their annotations.