Timeline Practice

Name: _____

1. What do the following abbreviations stand for?
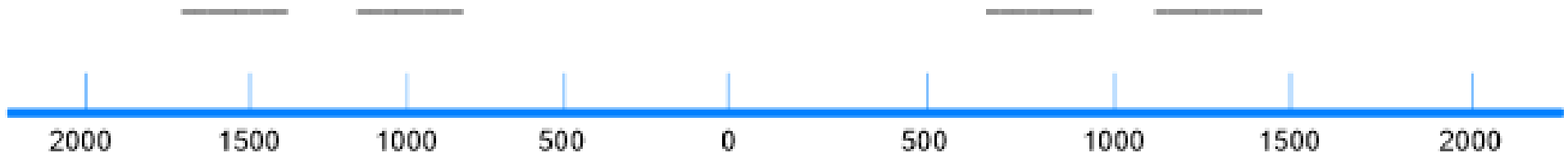
B.C. -   A.D. -   B.C.E. -   C.E. -

2. On a timeline, there are 2 sides (left side before the 0 and right side after the 0). The left side represents the oldest dates and the right side is the more recent (modern) time period. Place the letters above in the blanks below in the proper place.

_____ _____   _____ _____

| 2000 | 1500 | 1000 | 500 | 0 | 500 | 1000 | 1500 | 2000 |

3. On the back of the page you will find a list of dates. Place the letters properly onto the timeline above.

A. War of 1812 (1812 C.E.)

B. Menes unites Egypt (2500 B.C.E)

C. Magna Carta is signed (1215 A.D.)

D. Olmec civilization begins (1500 B.C.)

E. Hundred Years' War begins (1337 A.D.)

H. Mr. Jesus arrives (4 B.C.)
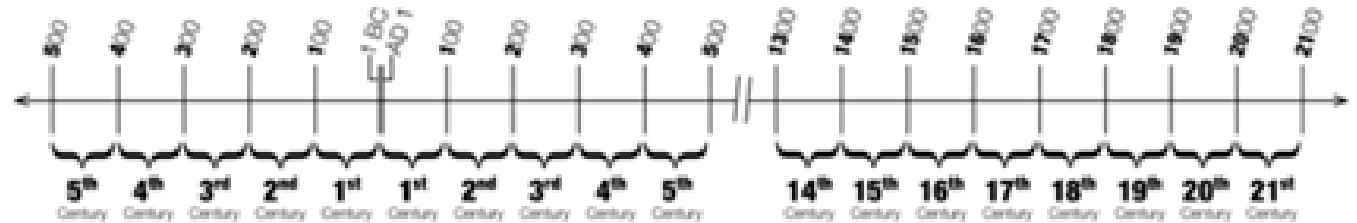
G. Trojan War (1250 B.C.E.)

F. World War 1 begins (1914 C.E.)

4. In which century were you born? _____

5. In which century did the War of 1812 occur? _____

6. In which century was the Magna Carta signed? _____

Understanding Centuries

500 400 300 200 100 1 BC AD 1 100 200 300 400 500 | 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000 2100

5th Century 4th Century 3rd Century 2nd Century 1st Century 1st Century 2nd Century 3rd Century 4th Century 5th Century 14th Century 15th Century 16th Century 17th Century 18th Century 19th Century 20th Century 21st Century

When you were born, you were **0 years old** the entire time you were in your **1st year of life**; when you were **1 year old**, you were in your **2nd year of life**; and at the **age of 12**, you will be in your **13th year of life**.

Did you notice how the **number** of your age is always different from your **year of life**? For example, when you're **2** you are in your **3rd** year of life.

Dates in history are also figured this way, except instead of saying 1st **year** or 10th **year**, we talk about the 1st **set of 100 years** (centuries), the 10th **set of 100 years**, etc.

Take a look on the time line at the 1st set of 100 years following Christ's birth (AD 1). This range of years, from 1 to 100" is called the 1st **century** because it is the 1st **set of 100 years** after the birth of Christ.

A KEY TO REMEMBER!

If you're trying to remember dates, thinking in terms of centuries can really be confusing. So, whenever you hear a time period given as a century, **always translate the century into years in your head**. For example:

- When you see **14th century**, think **1300's**
- When you see **6th century**, think **500's**

The next set of 100 years, the dates in the 100's, is called the 2nd century, and the 1700's is called the 18th century. This is even true for the years before Christ (BC). For example, the 3rd century BC is the 200's.

Did you notice that the **years** are different from the **centuries**? For example, **the year 1345** is in the **14th century**.

When you come across a century term in your reading, it's always a good idea to translate it into years in your head. For example, if you read the term **15th century**, think the **1400's**.

If you read a date or set of dates, but you'd like to describe them in terms of centuries, just drop the last two digits of the year and go up to the next number. For example, for the year **1453** you would think, "14 rounds up to 15, so it's the **15th century**."

_____

* Our modern calendar was based on the traditional placement of Christ's birth at AD 1, although it is now believed Christ was actually born a few years prior to AD 1.

** Although technically a new century doesn't begin until the "01" year, people commonly consider that a new "century" begins at "00" instead of "01." Since this distinction isn't crucial to understanding centuries, for memorization's sake, it's often easiest to remember that the 18th century is any date in the 1700's, the 2nd century is any date in the 100's, etc.