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.

[Timeline with blank spaces for 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.
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?

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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.)
F. World War 1 begins (1914 C.E.)
G. Trojan War (1250 B.C.E.)

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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 600'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 (B.C.). For example, the 3rd century B.C. 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."

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* 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 19th century is any date in the 1800s, the 20th century is any date in the 1900s, etc.