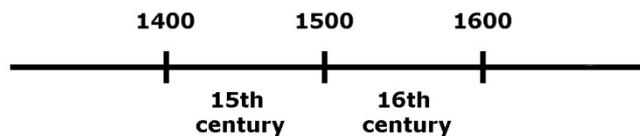




The Timeline Tournament

Using the *Timeline with Tapes* activity from the [Outdoor Archaeological Learning](#) resource, draw a 10m timeline on a sheet of lining paper (8000 BC – AD 2017). Take care to define the various periods (Mesolithic, Neolithic etc); and mark the centuries in the first millennium BC and first and second millennia AD (this is really important).

- 1400 – 1499 (15th century)
- 1500 – 1599 (16th century) *etc.*
- BC – Before Christ
- AD – *Anno Domini* (In the Year of our Lord)
- c. – *circa* (about)
- 1m – 1000 years (a millennium)
- 10cm – 100 years (a century)
- 1cm – 10 years (a decade)



Prepare 40 cards with famous historical characters and places. You should discuss this with the teacher first, as there may be previous topics or cross-curricular links that can be woven in. Try to spread them out over the centuries and genders. For example:

- Julius Caesar (1st century BC)
- Pompeii / Vesuvius (1st century AD)
- Alfred the Great (9th century AD)
- Robert the Bruce (14th century AD)
- Charles Darwin (19th century AD)

[1] First, explain your timeline. Use the LEGO cards in the [Outdoor Archaeological Learning](#) resource to describe the various periods. Take time to explain the concepts of millennia and centuries, history and prehistory. Try to weave in local archaeological sites to explain the periods – and drop plenty of hints to help the children during the game. *This should take about 15 minutes.*

[2] Then divide the group into two or more teams (such as the Picts and the Romans). Ask each team to prepare five 'special cards' of their own. You will have to help them with the dates – but explain that this can be difficult and that everyone needs Google sometimes! Remember that some of the new 'special cards' may replace some of the 'official' cards. Each team should have a captain / spokesperson (and maybe an adult team member). Shuffle the cards.

The Timeline Tournament

[3] Read out the first character or place. Each team should discuss their answer – the closest to the correct century or period wins a point (unless everyone is way out). 'Special cards' are only for the other team. Each round should only take a minute or so, writing the answers (and points) on the timeline. Give bonus points for interesting facts that are offered and be flexible and reactive to ensure that the game flows enjoyably. Don't rush and make the most of discussion when it comes. *This should take about 45 minutes / 1 hour.*

By working in teams, everyone should feel involved; and by contributing 'special cards', the children should feel ownership of the game. By acting as timeline quizmaster, the archaeological educator can guide discussion / prompt the children without appearing 'in charge'. The key messages are that 'historical characters' only really appear in the first and second millennia AD – and how important archaeology is in explaining 'prehistory'.

The Timeline Tournament

Suggested characters and places...

A blend of historic characters from Scotland and further afield; and a mix of local, regional, national and international historic and archaeological events and places. Remember that some places (particularly castles) have long periods of use and it may be difficult to define a century. Prehistoric sites are similar – but in some cases the answer could be ‘to the period’ or ‘millennium’. Be flexible and reactive!

- **Storregga Slide** (Mesolithic, 7th millennium BC), a landslip off coast of Norway causes a 25m high tsunami to engulf east coast of Scotland.
- **Skara Brae** (Neolithic village, 3rd millennium BC), Europe’s oldest complete village, 3100 – 2500 BC.
- **Stonehenge** (Late Neolithic, 3rd millennium BC), stone circle
- **Callanish** (Late Neolithic, 3rd millennium BC), stone circle
- **Great Pyramid of Giza** (Egypt, 2500BC)
- **Clava Cairns** (Bronze Age, 2nd millennium BC), burial cairns
- **Tutankhamun** (Egyptian, 14th century BC), became Pharaoh aged 10 and ruled for 9 years (c. 1332 – 1323 BC). His tomb was one of the most famous archaeological discoveries ever made.
- **Craig Phadrig** (Iron Age fort, 1st millennium BC)
- **Broch of Mousa** (Iron Age, 1st millennium BC)
- **Archimedes** (Greek, 3rd century BC), 287 BC – 212 BC, ancient Greek mathematician, shouted “Eureka!” from his bath.
- **Julius Caesar** (Roman, 1st century BC), laid foundations of Roman Empire.
- **Cleopatra** (Egyptian, 1st century BC), last ruler of ancient Egypt.
- **Colosseum** (Roman, 1st century AD), largest amphitheatre in the world, built in Rome in AD 80.
- **Pompeii** (Roman, 1st century AD), destroyed by eruption of Vesuvius AD 79.
- **Hadrian’s Wall** (Roman, 2nd century AD), constructed 122 – 128.
- **Boudicca** (Celtic Queen, 1st century AD), led revolt against the Romans in AD 61.
- **St Columba** (6th century AD), missionary and abbot of Iona.
- **Muhammad** (7th century AD), c. 570 – 632, prophet and founder of Islam
- **Nigg Pictish cross slab** (8th century AD), one of the finest surviving Pictish carved stones, and one of the most elaborate carved stones surviving from early medieval Europe.

The Timeline Tournament

- **Viking attack on Lindisfarne** (8th century AD), 793
- **Alfred the Great** (England, 9th century AD), fought the Vikings.
- **Kenneth Mac Alpin** (Scotland, 9th century AD), 'The first King of the Scots', said to have united Picts and Scots in AD 843.
- **Lief Erikson** (Viking explorer, 10th century AD), discovered America c. 1000.
- **Macbeth** (11th century AD), Mormaer of Moray and inspiration for Shakespeare's famous play (first performed in 1606).
- **William Wallace** (13th century AD), Wars of Independence.
- **Edward I** (13th century AD), 'Hammer of the Scots'
- **Robert the Bruce** (Scotland, 14th century AD), defeated Edward II at Battle of Bannockburn in 1314.
- **Christopher Columbus** (Explorer, 15th century AD), discovered America in 1492.
- **Leonardo da Vinci** (Renaissance Genius, 15th century AD), 1452 – 1519.
- **Queen Elizabeth** (16th century AD), 1533 – 1603.
- **Mary Queen of Scots** (16th century AD), beheaded 1587.
- **James the VI and I** (17th century AD), Union of the Crowns in 1603.
- **Guy Fawkes** (Revolutionary, 17th century AD), Gunpowder Plot in 1605.
- **Edward Teach** (Blackbeard) (Pirate, 18th century AD), classic era of piracy in the Caribbean late 17th century / early 18th century.
- **Fort George** (18th century AD), built 1748 – 1757.
- **Robert Burns** (18th century AD)
- **Bonnie Prince Charlie** (18th century AD), Battle of Culloden 1746.
- **Charles Darwin** (Scientist, 19th century AD), *On the Origin of Species* (1859)
- **Abraham Lincoln** (American president, 19th century AD), 1809 – 1865.
- **Queen Victoria** (19th century AD), 1837 – 1901.
- **Caledonian Canal** (19th century AD), completed in 1822.
- **Forth Rail Bridge** (19th century AD), opened in 1890.
- **Kessock Bridge** (20th century AD), road bridge, opened in 1982.
- **Howard Carter** (archaeologist, 20th Century AD), discovered tomb of Tutankhamun in 1922.

See also http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/