

TIMELINE

I. Origins—1000 B.C.E.

1.7 million years ago	Emergence and spread of <i>homo erectus</i>
500,000 years ago	Use of fire
200,000–120,000 years ago	<i>Homo sapiens sapiens</i>
18,000–12,000 years ago	Passage of people to Americas
9000 B.C.E.	Neolithic revolution (New Stone Age)
8000	Development of agriculture
5000	Agriculture in Central America
4000	Bronze tools, other inventions (Bronze Age)
3500–2600	Urban centers emerge in Mesopotamia (Sumer), development of cuneiform writing
3200–2780	Unification of Egypt under one pharaoh
3000–1300	Indus River cities
2600–2420	Akkadian invasions and empire
2100–1788	Expansion of Egypt to Sudan, Palestine
2050–1750	Kingdom of Babylon
ca. 2000	Hwang Ho civilization; myths of Hsia dynasty; golden-age writing of <i>Gilgamesh</i> , world's first known heroic epic
1700	Hammurabic Code
1500	New Kingdom in Egypt; increase in use of slaves; use of iron in Asian civilizations; Shang dynasty in China
1400–1150	Phoenician cities and colonies in eastern Mediterranean; formation of Jewish religion

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1300–900	Aryan invasions in India; intense invasions in Middle East
1200	First Olmec center in Central America, San Lorenzo
1150–130	Writing of books of Old Testament
1050–800	Decline of pharaohs; rise of Kush
1029–258	Zhou dynasty in China—feudal period, with manorialism
1000	Olympic Festival first held in Greece