Reading a Time Line

Learning the Skill

Historians create time lines to show a chronology (order) of key events during a particular historic period. A time line begins with a specific date and ends with another date. All the events between these dates happened in the order in which they are listed—either from left to right or top to bottom. Reading time lines is an easy way to make sense of the flow of events and when they occurred. A time line also gives you a picture of history and the relationships among events.

Use the following steps to read a time line:

• Read the title of the time line to understand what topic is being chronicled.
• Determine the era (B.C. or A.D.), time span, or the beginning and ending dates.
• Determine the time intervals. This is the length of the smaller segments of time used to divide the period on the time line.
• Identify the individual events labeled along the time line. Look for relationships among the events.

☑ Practicing the Skill

Directions: Read the information on the time line below, and then answer the questions that follow.

Early Events in Southwest Asia

- 5000 B.C.
  Egyptians invent hieroglyphics

- 4000 B.C.
  Sumerians use irrigation, invent cuneiform

- 1000 B.C.
  King David creates a kingdom with Jerusalem as its capital

- 1800 B.C.
  Jews descend from Abraham who lived in Mesopotamia

- A.D. 30
  Jesus teaches and founds Christianity

- A.D. 600s
  Muhammad records commands of Allah in Quran, founds Islam
Chart, Graph, and Map Skills Activity

continued

1. **Expressing** What two era designations appear on the time line?

2. **Identifying** What is the earliest form of writing that appears on this time line?

3. **Identifying** Who founded Islam?

✔ **Applying the Skill**

*Directions:* Read the information on the time line below. Then follow the directions and answer the questions that follow.

**Recent Events in Southwest Asia**

- **1973** Arab states raise oil prices and stop flow of oil
- **1990** Saddam Hussein (Iraq) invades Kuwait, triggers Gulf War
- **2003** U.S. invades Iraq as part of war on terrorism

1. **Labeling** Add the following events to the time line:
   - Ayatollah Khomeini rises to power in Iran.
   - Terrorists attack the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.
   - The United Nations splits Palestine into two countries.

2. **Expressing** What are the time span and the time intervals on the time line?

3. **Identifying** In what year did Ayatollah Khomeini come to power in Iran?