Recognizing Time and Sequence

Learning the Skill

History is a collection of stories explaining people and events in specific times and places. To describe and explain change over time, historians need to know the sequence of events. This ordering of events is called chronological order. Understanding how events are related across time allows us to see trends, as well as cause and effect. For example, Kemal Atatürk served as a soldier before becoming the leader of Turkey. Studying Atatürk’s experiences as a soldier, along with the sequence of events in his life, helps historians understand how Atatürk’s leadership was affected by these events.

Follow these steps to recognize time and sequence:

- Look for specific dates in the text. If several months in a year are included, the year is usually not repeated.
- Look for signal words that refer to time and sequence. Signal words may include first, second, last, finally, next, then, since, soon, before, after, meanwhile, at the same time, and at last.
- Watch for a change in verb tense—such as is, was, would have been—which often indicates the time of an event.
- Create a time line to help you remember important dates. Identify connections between the dates of events in different places.

Practicing the Skill

Directions: Read the information below. Then answer the questions that follow.

Since the 1300s, Turkey had been under the control of a people called the Ottomans. The Ottoman Empire was vast and lasted for hundreds of years. It finally collapsed in 1918 at the end of World War I. The Allies ruled over the Ottomans after the war ended. In 1920 the Turkish nationalists, led by Kemal Atatürk, formed a government in Ankara. They wanted independence from the Allies. However, it was not until 1923 that Turkey became an independent republic. Between 1920 and 1923, the nationalists fought the Greeks, who had invaded the west coast of Turkey. The nationalists finally drove the Greek army from Turkey in 1922. In 1923 Kemal was elected the first president of Turkey.

1. Sequencing What is the correct order of the following events: the end of World War I; beginning of Ottoman control; Kemal elected president?
2. **Sequencing** In what year did the Turkish nationalists form a government in Ankara? Did this happen before or after World War I?

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**Apply the Skill**

**Directions:** Read the information below. Then complete the activity.

Turkmenistan gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. A year later, the government wrote a new constitution. Saparmurad Niyazov, who led Turkmenistan under Soviet rule, became president. In 1994 he was reelected for an eight-year term. Then he was made president for life in 1999, but he said he will step down in 2010.

Earlier, when Turkmenistan became independent, many people hoped for new freedoms. This has not happened under Niyazov. The government controls all radio, television, and newspaper outlets. In 2000 the government told people that they could not travel to certain parts of the country. In 2002 it was reported that someone tried to kill Niyazov. After this event, the government passed laws that took away many more freedoms, including freedom of religion and the right to gather in groups.

People who oppose the government are forced to leave the country or are put in prison. In 2005 Niyazov banned recorded music on television and at public events. He also closed many libraries and all hospitals outside of the capital, Ashgabat. That same year, the United Nations stated that Niyazov should allow basic human rights in his country. Other human rights groups, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, expressed their concerns a year later.

1. **Identifying** What are five signal words that identify time and sequence.

2. **Sequencing** Fill in the time line below with key words or dates in this series of events.