

Starting a Timeline Book

To get started you need:

- A 3-ring binder, preferably with inside pocket to store notes and illustrations.
- Blank 3-hole punched copy paper. If you would like sturdier paper use a heavy stock or drawing paper, and three-hole punch.

Decide upon the units of time that you will use to divide your timeline into segments (decades, scores, centuries, etc.).

Use the sample timeline page below to copy or print to your timeline pages. Or your children can do this by hand.

To separate eras, or regions, use colored paper or dividers with tabs (available at the office store).

Creating a Timeline Book

By using a notebook-style timeline, you will be able to add or replace pages easily over the years that you study history with your children.

Instructions (see sample page at end):

- The top of the page should have the dates.
- The middle is used for illustrations.
- The bottom is saved for comments (handwritten or typed).

Illustrations

The timeline can be illustrated using several resources. Pick and choose according to your child's ability and your finances. The children should be doing the research and the choosing of

illustrations, not you.

- Draw by hand. Trace from your history text and color.
- Photocopy from textbooks.
- Cutout from magazines and old encyclopedias picked up at garage sales or thrift stores.
- Search the Internet for clipart. Begin with Alta Vista's Image Search (www.altavista.com and click on "image"), University of Texas (www.lib.utexas.edu/photodraw/portraits), and Online Saints (www.catholiconline.org/saints).
- Photocopy from Marcia Neill's *Catholic World History Timeline and Guide*, available at www.rchistory.com. Though the price is almost \$100, it is a good investment if you will be doing this activity for several years with several children. Contains thousands of illustrations, including many hard-to-find Catholic pictures (all of the popes and most well-known saints). Can be filled in with color pencils.

Using a Book Timeline

In our homeschool, the children read historical fiction and biographies, concentrating heavily on the lives of the saints. They are required to read a book every two weeks and present a book report. To supplement, I read aloud from Catholic history textbooks and follow with a round-table discussion. A history timeline ties everything together nicely and provides a good foundation on which to build our studies. It helps my children understand the order and flow of history. If you do not move through your historical studies chronologically, a timeline will help your children see the ebbs and flow of history. A timeline provides a multi-sensory approach to history that will especially help visual learners retain their lessons.

Dates

Sample

Dates

1800	1810	1820
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Lewis and Clark



**Expedition
1804-1806**

**Elisabeth Ann Seton
founds religious community 1809**

1801-1809 Thomas Jefferson doubles the size of the United States with the Louisiana Purchase; sent for Lewis and Clark to explore new territory.

1803 Robert Fulton (1765-1815), American inventor. Makes first commercially successful steamboat.

1820 Missouri Compromise. MO admitted as a slave state and Maine admitted as a free state.

Sample

Dates

Dates

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Area for Illustrations

Area for comments, notes, outlines, paragraphs
