

Time Line of the Land

Skills: Social Studies, Math, Language Arts

Objective: The student will construct time lines, using historical facts about the development of agriculture.

Background

The first agricultural tool was a digging stick. It was used to grub up roots and to dig holes for seeds. Someone had the idea of attaching a cross-bar to the stick so the stick could be driven deeper into the soil. That was the first shovel, or spade. A stick with a branch at one end that could be pulled through the ground was the first hoe. Later people started making blades of stone or shell and attaching them to their hoes to give them greater cutting power. Native Americans used deer antlers as rakes or hoes. Most tools were made from obsidian or flint, two kinds of stone that are easy to carve. A stick used to knock the heads of grain loose from the stalks became a sickle when stone teeth were set along one edge.

After people started raising animals for food, they realized they could also use the animals to help them with their work. The next step was to fasten a heavy hoe behind an animal and get the animal to pull it through the ground. This was the first plow. The change from stone tools to metal tools took place slowly. The discovery of metal gave farmers sharper, stronger blades for hoes, plow points and sickles. Most cultures first used bronze, then iron.

Agriculture in the New World didn't develop in the same way it did in Europe and Asia. There were no metal tools in the Americas until European settlers brought them in the 16th Century. The idea of using animals to help with the work was also new to natives to the New World. When the Europeans began settling in the New World, they taught natives some new agricultural practices and learned some new ones from them, as well.

An amazing variety of agricultural inventions over the past 300 years has made it possible for the American farmer to feed more and more people. When our country first became a nation, farmers were still relying on animals and their own physical strength to provide the energy needed to grow their food. Today machines are involved in nearly every aspect of farming. Farmers today have even entered the computer age and depend on the computer to tell them things like how much to plant and when is the best time to sell. In Oklahoma a new computer network called Mesonet even helps farmers predict the weather so they will know the best time to plant and harvest their crops.

P.A.S.S.

GRADE 2

Social Studies—1.1,3

Math Process—4.4

Reading—4.3

Oral Language—3.2

GRADE 3

Social Studies—1.1

Math Process—4.4

Reading—3.3; 6.1c

Oral Language—3.2

GRADE 4

Social Studies—1.1,2

Math Process—4.4

Reading—5.2ad

Writing—1.6

Oral Language—3.2

GRADE 5

Social Studies—1.2

Math Process—4.4

Reading—5.1e

Writing—1.3

Oral Language—3.2

Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom is a program of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, 4-H Youth Development, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

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Vocabulary

flint—A very hard, fine-grained quartz that sparks when struck with steel.

hoe—A tool with a flat blade attached approximately at right angles to a long handle, used for weeding, cultivating and gardening.

obsidian—A volcanic glass, usually black or banded, displaying curved, shiny surfaces when fractured.

plow—A farm implement consisting of a heavy blade at the end of a beam, usually hitched to a draft team or motor vehicle and used for breaking up soil and cutting furrows in preparation for sowing seeds.

shovel—A tool with a handle and somewhat flattened scoop for picking up dirt and other material.

sickle—An implement having a semicircular blade attached to a short handle, used for cutting grain or tall grass.

spade—A digging implement adapted for being pushed into the ground with the foot.

Language Arts/Social Studies

1. Hand out Student Worksheet A.
 - Discuss the dates and facts with students.
 - Divide the class into research teams.
 - Students will research facts class members do not understand.
 - Teams will report their findings to the class.

Math

1. Pass out the student time line sheets.
 - Students will tape or glue the sections together sequentially in a strip.
 - Read together the facts printed on the lower half of the time line, and discuss the significance of the facts.
 - Students will choose 11 events from Student Worksheet A and write the dates in the correct place on the time line.
3. Create a large class time line for display.
 - Enlarge the time line sections.
 - Divide class into groups.
 - Assign one section to each group.
 - Students will illustrate events and place the illustrations in the correct place on the time line.
5. Students will select beginning and end dates and create time lines of their own lives.
6. Make a class birthday time line.
 - List months instead of years and plot the birthday of every student in the class.

Extra Reading

Collins, David R., Pioneer Plowmaker: A Story About John Deere, Carolrhoda, 1990.

Johnson, Tony, The Cowboy and the Black-Eyed Pea, Putnam, 1992.

Name _____

Time Line of the Land

A

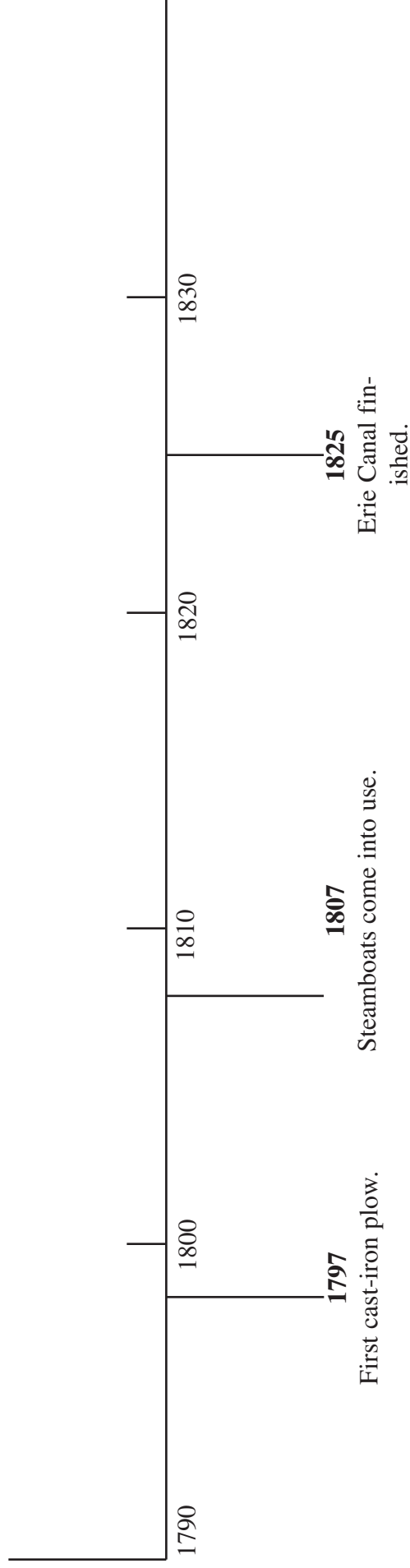
Choose 11 dates that interest you, and use them to complete the time line.

- 1793 Invention of the cotton gin.
- 1796 National Board of Agriculture established by George Washington.
- 1802 First agriculture fair in Arlington, Virginia.
- 1805 Cotton replaces tobacco as main crop in the South.
- 1819 US canning industry started.
- 1837 John Deere manufactures steel plow.
- 1850 Farming of the prairies begins.
- 1854 Development of the modern windmill.
- 1861 Kerosene lamps become popular.
- 1867 Cattle boom. Range wars break out between ranchers and farmers.
- 1874 Barbed wire helps tame the West.
- 1890 Census shows frontier settlement over.
- 1900 George Washington Carver discovers many uses for peanuts and soybeans.
- 1920 Agriculture prices collapse.
- 1932 Dust Bowl conditions develop.
- 1945 Frozen foods become popular.
- 1954 More tractors than work horses on the farm.
- 1960 More shipments of strawberries and fresh flowers made by cargo plane.
- 1972 Russian wheat sales bring higher farm prices.
- 1986 Anti-smoking campaigns cut tobacco production.
- 1986 Worst drought ever to hit Midwest farmers.
- 1993 Flooding along the Mississippi River destroys Midwestern crops.



Name _____

Time Line of the Land B

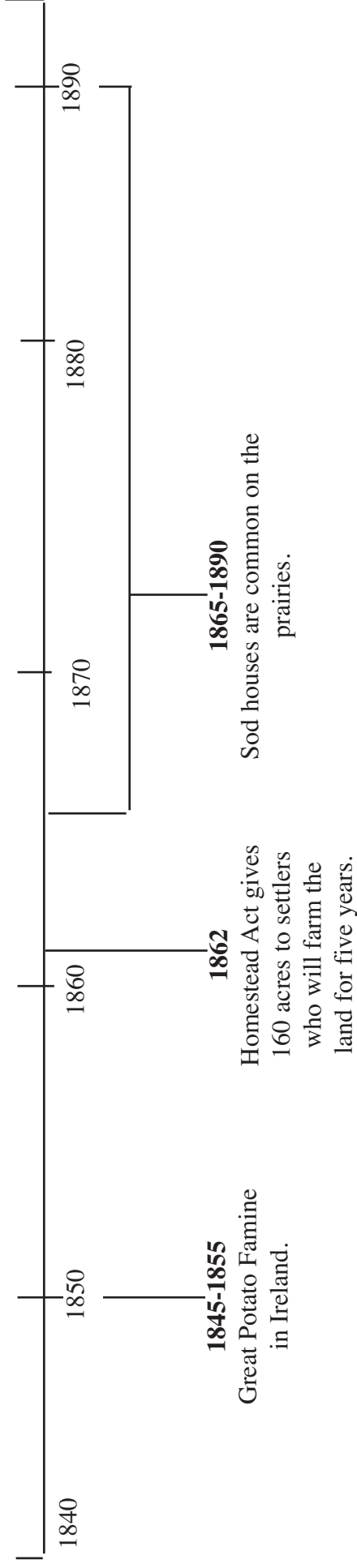


Produced by Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. OSU, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Oklahoma State Department of Education, 2006.



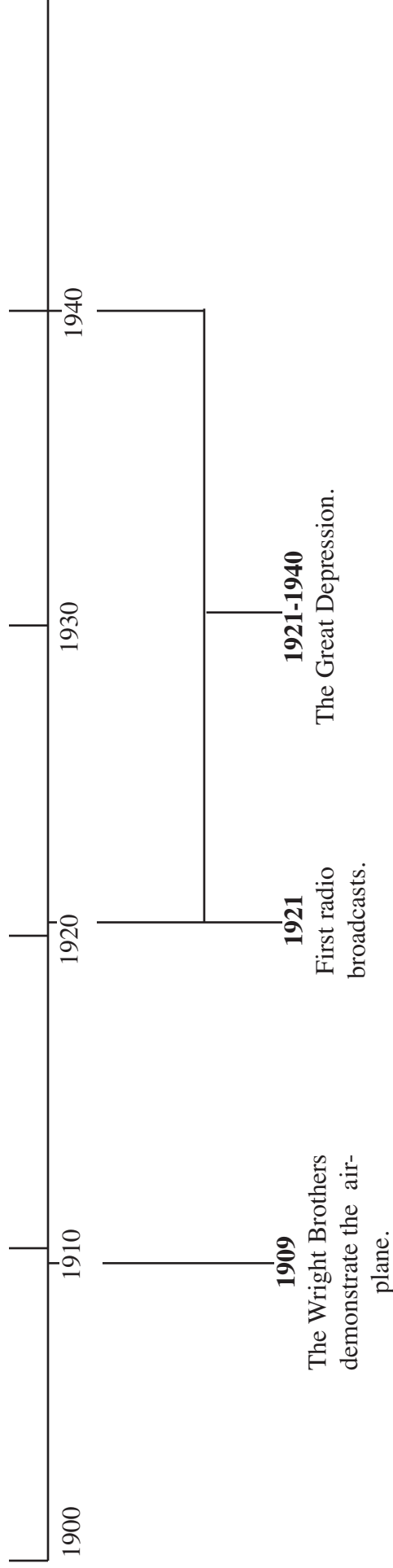
Name _____

Time Line of the Land C



Name _____

Time Line of the Land D



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Name _____

Time Line of the Land E

