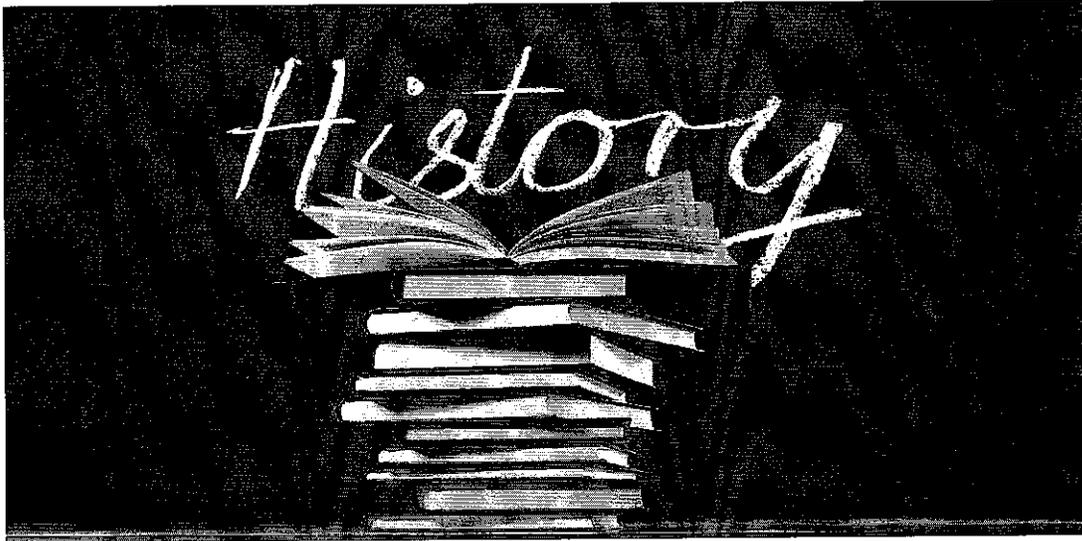


7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES SUMMER LEARNING PACKET
COLUMBUS CITY PREPARATORY SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS



THIS SUMMER YOU WILL DIVE INTO CONCEPTS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO SOCIAL STUDIES. ATTACHED YOU WILL FIND AN ACTIVITY ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES AS WELL AS AN ARTICLE FROM NEWSLA THAT YOU WILL ANALYZE. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THIS PACKET AND TURN IT IN ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU AND START ON THIS NEW ADVENTURE AT CCPSG!

NAME _____

DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, AUGUST 27TH

Primary and Secondary Sources

Primary Sources-

Give three examples of primary sources:

- a.
- b.
- c.

Secondary Sources-

Give three examples of secondary sources:

- a.
- b.
- c.

Assessment Questions- For each of the following mark “P” if the source is primary or “S” if the source is secondary

1. _____ A diary titled “Life in the Mines” from a miner named Lucky Noah who lived in Idaho in the 1870’s
2. _____ A magazine article from 2011 titled “Mining in the Old West in the 1860’s to the 1890’s”
3. _____ A chapter in your world history textbook about the Ancient Greeks.
4. _____ An original photograph from the 1941 attack at Pearl Harbor that you found in your grandparents’ photo album
5. _____ An original World War I uniform worn by your great grandfather
6. _____ An encyclopedia entry on the Vietnam War
7. _____ The diary of Anne Frank (a young girl who lived in hiding during the Holocaust)
8. _____ Sheet music that was used to play military tunes during the Revolutionary War
9. _____ A web site that summarizes Ancient Roman mythology
10. _____ A map of China created during ancient times.

11. ___ An ancient tablet of Babylonian King Hammurabi's Code of Laws
12. ___ Pictures taken by your Aunt Sally of the World Trade Center attack
13. ___ A newspaper article outlining the effect of the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
14. ___ A manuscript of Barack Obama's first speech as President.
15. ___ An ancient Egyptian mummy you saw at a museum.

Creative Writing- *Pick an interesting story that happened to you this summer. Write a primary account (you were there when it happened) of that event. Then, find out a story from a friend or family member of something that did not happen to you. Write a secondary account (you were not there when it happened) about that event. You may write in the space provided or write your stories on a separate sheet of paper.*

Primary account (5 sentence minimum):

Secondary Account (5 sentence minimum):

The origin and history of the BCE/CE dating system

By Ancient History Encyclopedia, adapted by Newsela staff on 08.23.19

Word Count 980

Level 1050L

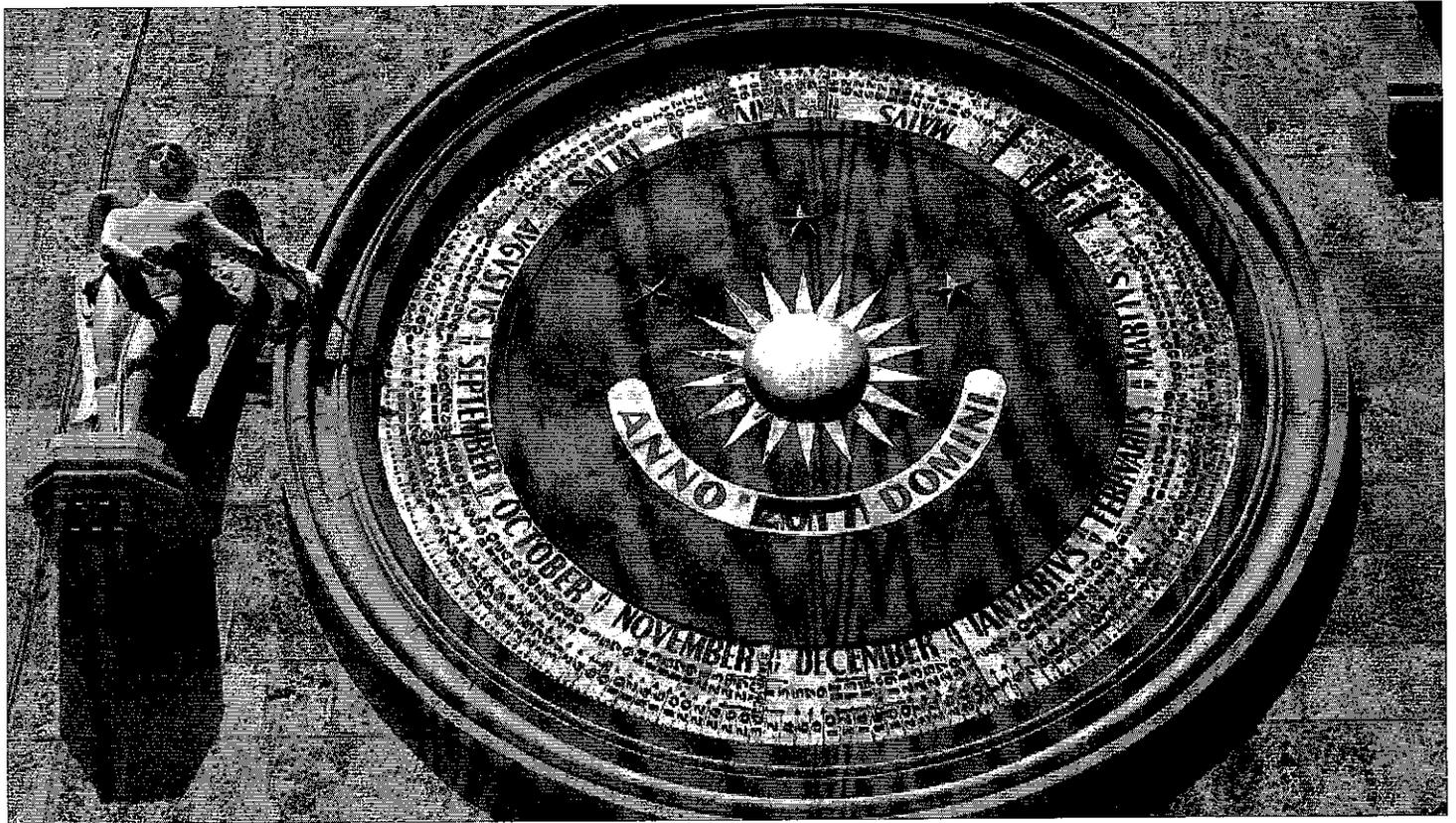


Image 1. Messina Cathedral Astronomical clock on clock tower in Palermo, a province in the autonomous region of Sicily, an island affiliated with Italy. Photo by: Eye Ubiquitous/Universal Images Group/Getty Images

It used to be common practice for historians to use the Before Christ/Anno Domini (BC/AD) system when dating history. Now, however, they use the Before Common Era/Common Era (BC/CE) system to date events. This change has been met with controversy, as some people insist that the BC/CE system is an attempt to "remove Christ from the calendar." These critics claim that BC/CE designations are motivated by political correctness rather than historical accuracy.

There is no biblical foundation for the BC/AD designations. The system was created more than 500 years after the events described in the Christian New Testament, and was not widely used for yet another 500 years. While the use of BCE/CE has become more common in recent years, it is not a recent invention of scholars.

History Of BC/AD

The Hebrew calendar is based on a concept known as Anno Mundi, meaning "in the year of the world" in Latin. This concept dates the calendar from the beginning of the earth's creation as

calculated in Jewish scripture. Ancient civilizations such as Mesopotamia and Egypt, meanwhile, based their calendars on which king ruled in a given year. Similar dating methods were used in ancient Rome.

Early Christians used both the Roman and Anno Mundi calendars. In 525 CE, the monk Dionysius Exiguus introduced a new concept for dating. His idea was the groundwork for the BC/AD system.

Dionysius invented the concept of Anno Domini, which translates to "in the year of our Lord" in Latin. This was part of his attempt to establish a single date for Easter. During Dionysius' time, the eastern and western churches celebrated Easter on different days. To get all Christians to celebrate Easter on the same day, Dionysius needed a new calendar.

At the time, Christians of the influential church of Alexandria dated events in relation to the reign of the Roman emperor Diocletian. Diocletian, who began his rule in 284, was responsible for the violent oppression of Christians. This was troubling to Dionysius, who then decided to change the dating system entirely. He proposed a new system that would date events in relation to Jesus' birth.

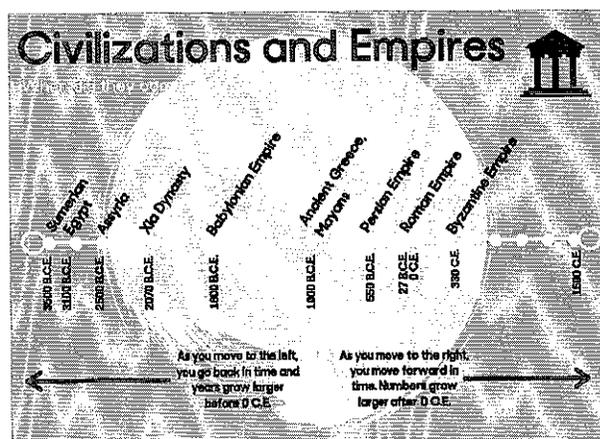
BC/AD and The Bible: Jesus' Birth

The problem with this dating system was that no one knew Jesus' birth date. Dionysius himself did not know this with any certainty, and his system didn't claim to have a definite answer. In calculating the date, Dionysius relied on the four gospels of the New Testament. The gospels, which were written by different authors from around 66 to 110 CE, describe Jesus' life.

Scholar Robert R. Cargill explains that "the BC/AD system is fundamentally flawed in that it misrepresents the birth of Jesus by approximately 7 years." Moreover, the gospels are not consistent with each other. The Gospel of Matthew suggests that Jesus was born around 7 BCE. Yet the Gospel of Luke implies a birth date around 6 CE. Since the entire dating system rests upon the assumption that Jesus was born at the beginning of the calendar, this calls the BC/AD system into question.

The Common Era

Dionysius himself did not use the terms BC and AD. In Dionysius' system, events after Jesus' birth occur in the "year of the Lord," while prior events are not dated at all. The use of BC/AD to distinguish time periods came when the English monk Bede published *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People* in 731 CE. Bede's work popularized the BC/AD designations.



However, the terms were not universally accepted.

They would not become widespread until Charlemagne instituted the BC/AD system during his reign from 800 to 814 CE. Yet even after Charlemagne, many European nations continued to use other calendars. The system was not used at all outside of Europe. It was not until the 15th century CE that Europe fully adopted the Anno Domini calendar.

Then, in the 17th century, German astronomer Johannes Keppler used the term "vulgar era" instead of AD. At the time, "vulgar" meant "common" rather than "rude." Eventually, the term "vulgar era" became known as the "common era." The term "before common era" was now used to designate events prior to the beginning of the common era as defined by the BC/AD system. The term first appeared in English in a book published in 1708 CE. Non-Christian scholars embraced the new terms because they could communicate more easily with Christians.

BCE/CE In The Present Day

When Keppler first used the term "vulgar era," people of his time were questioning knowledge. They began to form their own opinions about how the world worked.

BCE/CE continues to be used because it is more accurate than BC/AD. Dionysius had no understanding of the concept of zero and neither did Bede, so the calendar they dated events from is inaccurate. The year 1 AD would follow 1 BC without a starting point for the new chronology of events. The BC/AD system, from Dionysius onward, was informed by Christian theology that took for granted that Dionysius actually knew the birth date of Jesus.

By the time people began questioning the BC/AD system, more than a thousand years had passed. Since people were now accustomed to the system, it made sense to keep the system, but find new terms to designate dates. The terms BCE and CE were adopted.

Aside from being more accurate, the BCE/CE system has the advantage of being more inclusive. The BC/AD system positions every historical event in relation to the birth of Jesus. For Christians who believe that Jesus is the messiah, this makes sense. For non-Christians, though, the birth of Jesus holds little cultural significance. People of different cultures and belief systems should be able to discuss history without having to date it according to Christian beliefs.

Quiz

- 1 Which section from the article BEST explains why the BCE/CE system got started?
- (A) Introduction [paragraphs 1-2]
 - (B) "History Of BC/AD"
 - (C) "The Common Era"
 - (D) "BCE/CE In The Present Day"
- 2 Select the paragraph from the section "History Of BC/AD" that explains why the previous dating system was extremely disturbing to Dionysius Exiguus.
- (A) The Hebrew calendar is based on a concept known as Anno Mundi, meaning "in the year of the world" in Latin. This concept dates the calendar from the beginning of the earth's creation as calculated in Jewish scripture. Ancient civilizations such as Mesopotamia and Egypt, meanwhile, based their calendars on which king ruled in a given year. Similar dating methods were used in ancient Rome.
 - (B) Early Christians used both the Roman and Anno Mundi calendars. In 525 CE, the monk Dionysius Exiguus introduced a new concept for dating. His idea was the groundwork for the BC/AD system.
 - (C) Dionysius invented the concept of Anno Domini, which translates to "in the year of our Lord" in Latin. This was part of his attempt to establish a single date for Easter. During Dionysius' time, the eastern and western churches celebrated Easter on different days. To get all Christians to celebrate Easter on the same day, Dionysius needed a new calendar.
 - (D) At the time, Christians of the influential church of Alexandria dated events in relation to the reign of the Roman emperor Diocletian. Diocletian, who began his rule in 284, was responsible for the violent oppression of Christians. This was troubling to Dionysius, who then decided to change the dating system entirely. He proposed a new system that would date events in relation to Jesus' birth.
- 3 Which sentence from the article is BEST supported by Image 1?
- (A) It used to be common practice for historians to use the Before Christ/Anno Domini (BC/AD) system when dating history.
 - (B) Now, however, they use the Before Common Era/Common Era (BC/CE) system to date events.
 - (C) The Hebrew calendar is based on a concept known as Anno Mundi, meaning "in the year of the world" in Latin.
 - (D) Dionysius invented the concept of Anno Domini, which translates to "in the year of our Lord" in Latin.
- 4 Examine image 2.
- How does this image contribute to the reader's understanding of the BCE/CE dating system?
- (A) It demonstrates when different civilizations and empires began to adopt the BCE/CE system of dating.
 - (B) It contrasts where civilizations and empires fall on the BCE/CE system versus where they fall in the BC/AD system.
 - (C) It shows where civilizations and empires began in relationship to 0 C.E. and explains how the timeline works.
 - (D) It illustrates some of the objections people have to using the BCE/CE system to date when civilizations and empires began.

Post Article Writing Prompt

What claims and counterclaims can be developed based on information found in the article? Support your claim with evidence from the article.