

Name _____

Date _____



Timelines and Chronology

Engage

FARMER EDDIE: You think your life is tough? Pfft, I'm a farmer. Every day's a struggle. Here's what happened yesterday. I'll lay it out for you in chronological order—the order things happened, from earliest to latest.

What do you already know about timelines?

Explore

FARMER EDDIE: At 5am, the rooster woke me up.

At 6am, I had to feed the chickens.

At 7am, it's time for my breakfast—finally. But that usually gets interrupted by something.

HORSE: Farmer Eddie, it's time to exercise! Are you ready? Can you take me out now? I want to dance!

FARMER EDDIE: At 8am, I go horseback riding. 9am: gardening. 12pm: cleaning. 1pm: wrestle the pig.

PIG: If you want your hat back you're gonna have to wrestle me for it.

FARMER EDDIE: 2pm: paint the barn. 4pm: milk the cow. 5pm: shear the sheep.

SHEEP: Not too much off the top.

FARMER EDDIE: 6pm: repair the tractor. 7pm: dinner.

Explain

FARMER EDDIE: You get the idea. I mean, you can see all the stuff I've got to do in a single day, right?

Let's go over it again just to be sure. What we're looking at here is called a timeline. It's a visual way of

showing events that happened over the course of time. Check the title to see what it's all about. This timeline is showing us a day in the life of Farmer Eddie—that's me. Each event goes left to right in chronological order—that means, in the order it happened. Each evenly-spaced mark is a moment in time, and the space between each mark represents time passing. The amount of time that passes between each mark is the timeline's scale. The scale for this timeline is one hour. When did I paint the barn? Find the event. Here it is. Now follow it down...2pm. I painted the barn at 2pm. What happened at 6pm? Find the time. Here it is. Follow it up. I repaired the tractor at 6pm.

But enough about my day. Let me tell you about some of the things that have happened on the farm since I bought it ten years ago, in 2010. But to tell that story, we're going to have to make some changes to the timeline.

It doesn't make sense to have a scale of one hour for things that happened over ten years' time. Let's change the scale to one year.

Instead of taking us back in time just a few hours, this timeline takes us back all the way to the year 2010, when I bought the farm.

In 2011, there was a flood. In 2013, aliens visited the farm. In 2014, my mom visited the farm. In 2016, my goat released his first album. Other stuff happened too.

What if I told you that there was a hurricane on the farm in 2012? Can you see where that event would go on the timeline? Remember, the events need to be in chronological order. The hurricane of 2012 would go right...here, between the flood and the alien visit.

Now, let's look at the history of the farm since the year 1950. Since we're looking at a wider range of time, we're going to have to bump up the scale again. Instead of one year, let's do one decade. A decade is ten years.

Notice how some events happen between the marks. The music festival in 1966 is between 1960 and 1970. You could also say the music festival happened in the 1960s. We call 10-year periods like the 1960s or the 1780s decades too.

Elaborate

Let's zoom way, way out now, to see all the people who have owned the farm since it was founded almost 300 years ago. The scale for this timeline is 100 years. We call 100 years a century. We also call 100-year periods of time, like the 1800s, a century. We refer to the 1800s as the 19th century, not the 18th century. Kind of confusing, right? Well, there was no century zero, so years 1-100 were the first century, and 101-200 were the second century, and so on.

Evaluate

I hope that clears up some questions you might have had about how to read timelines.

HORSE: I hate to interrupt, but the pig stole the tractor again. Also there's a fire.

FARMER EDDIE: I've got to go.