## 9. Timelines

A timeline is a way we can show the chronological order in which things happen. A timeline is a sequence of events which also shows the relationship one event has to another in time.

Timelines can be used to show any time period. Scientists use them to show fractions of a second, historians use them to show days, weeks, or even thousands of years.


Timelines should have equally spaced sections, e.g. $10 \mathrm{~cm}=1$ year. They can be horizontal like the one above, vertical like the one to the right, or take any shape you, wavy, circular, or jagged. The important thing to remember about timelines is that they should be in chronological order and the spaces between time periods should be equal.


| Buffy's Timeline |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| 1997 | Arrives in Sunnydale |
| 1998 | $16^{\text {th }}$ Birthday, Kills Angel |
| 1999 | Defeats the Mayor |
| 2000 | Attends UC Sunnydale |
| 2001 | Defeats Glory, Dies |
| 2002 | Comes back from the dead |
| 2003 | Defeats Willow |
| 2004 | Destroys Sunnydale |
|  |  |

Usually a timeline has the smallest numbers on the left, and we count up as we go forward. BC works in the opposite way, the numbers get bigger the
 more we go back in time. When we put dates and events in chronological order the biggest $B C$ numbers come first, then after 1AD the smallest AD numbers come before the biggest. Sometimes we leave off the "AD" when writing dates, but we must never leave off the BC.


## Activities

## Comprehension Questions

Before you start, define the terms in bold.


1. Name 3 ways timelines are used.
2. Which amounts of time can timelines be used for?
3. What length of time does the first example timeline cover?
4. What is the rule for spacing a timeline?
5. What shape should a timeline be?
6. What are the rules when working with A.D. and B.C.?

## Chronological Order

1. Put the following numbers in chronological order
a.2000BC
b.150BC
c. 600
d. 200
e.450BC

## Timelines



1. Draw a 13 cm horizontal line in your book, mark off every cm, and number each mark from 0 to 13
2. Each number is a year of your life; write down at least 6 important things that have happened in your life.
3. Now make a timeline for what you did yesterday, 24 hours, 12 cm long, 2 hours every cm.
4. Create a timeline for the following years
a.200BC
b.50BC
c. 25
d. 150
e.170BC
