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HISTORY

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1. What is history?

History is the study of the past. A person who studies history is called a historian.

WHAT ARE HISTORIANS INTERESTED IN?

- How people live**
- Important events in the past**

WHY DO WE STUDY HISTORY?

- History helps us to understand more about ourselves. It tells us where we come from, and explains our culture and traditions**
- You are part of history. In the future, historians will be interested in your life**



1.1 Historical sources

A source* is anything that gives us information about the past.

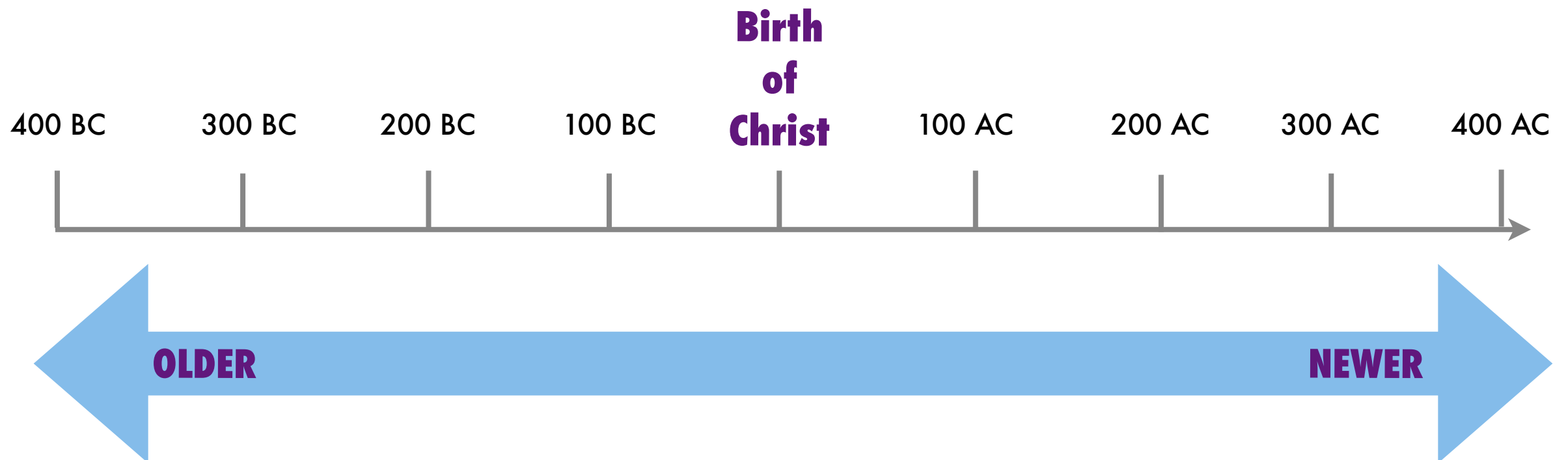
There are two types of sources:

- **Primary source:** a source from the same time as, or very soon after, the period we want to study. Buildings, tools, diaries, letters, interviews and photos are all examples of primary sources.
- **Secondary source:** a source created later by someone who was not there when the things we are studying happened. History books and biographies are secondary sources.



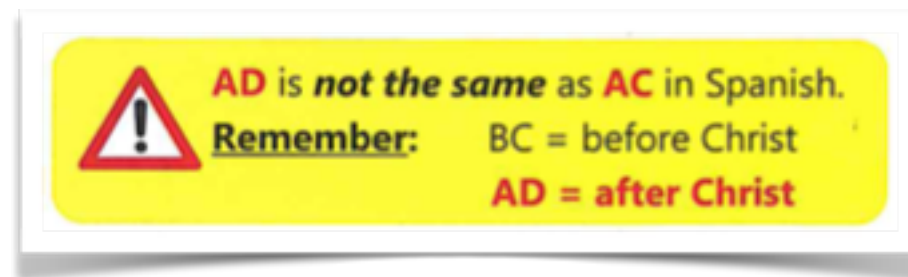
2. How do historians count time?

- When we talk about the past, we need to say when things happened. Normally we say the year - for example, "Spain won the football world cup in 2010". What does 2010 mean? Well, our calendar starts with the birth of Christ in year 1, so 2010 means "2010 years after the birth of Christ".
- What do we do about things that happened before Christ was born? We count backwards from his birth, like this:



Now we have two different years called 400 - how do we know which one we are talking about? For things that happened **b**efore **C**hrist was born, we add **BC** to the number, and for things that happened after Christ, we add **AD** (AD stands for **A**nno **D**ominici, which means “year of our Lord” in Latin).

If the date doesn't say AD or BC, it is always AD



- **GROUPING DATES:** Historians like to put events that happened at around the same time into groups:
- A **decade** is 10 years long
- A **century** is 100 years long
- A **millenium** is 1000 years long
- An **era** or age is a long period of time, but it isn't a particular number of years

TALKING ABOUT DATES

- To **say** a **year**, we **normally** split it into **two numbers**:

1492 → 1492 → In **fourteen ninety-two**

1805 → 1805 → In **eighteen oh five** (we say the 0 as "oh")

1900 → 1900 → In **nineteen hundred** (we say the 00 as "hundred")

- Between 100 and 1000**, we can **either** split the year into **two numbers** or say it as **one number**:

711 → 711 → In **seven eleven** OR **In seven hundred and eleven**

- For years **lower than 100**, we normally say:

43 → In **the year forty-three** OR In **forty-three AD**

- For years **between 2000 and 2009** and **between 1000 and 1009**, we normally say **one number**:

2005 → In **two thousand and five**

- If the year is before Christ, just add BC at the end: **In fourteen ninety-two BC**

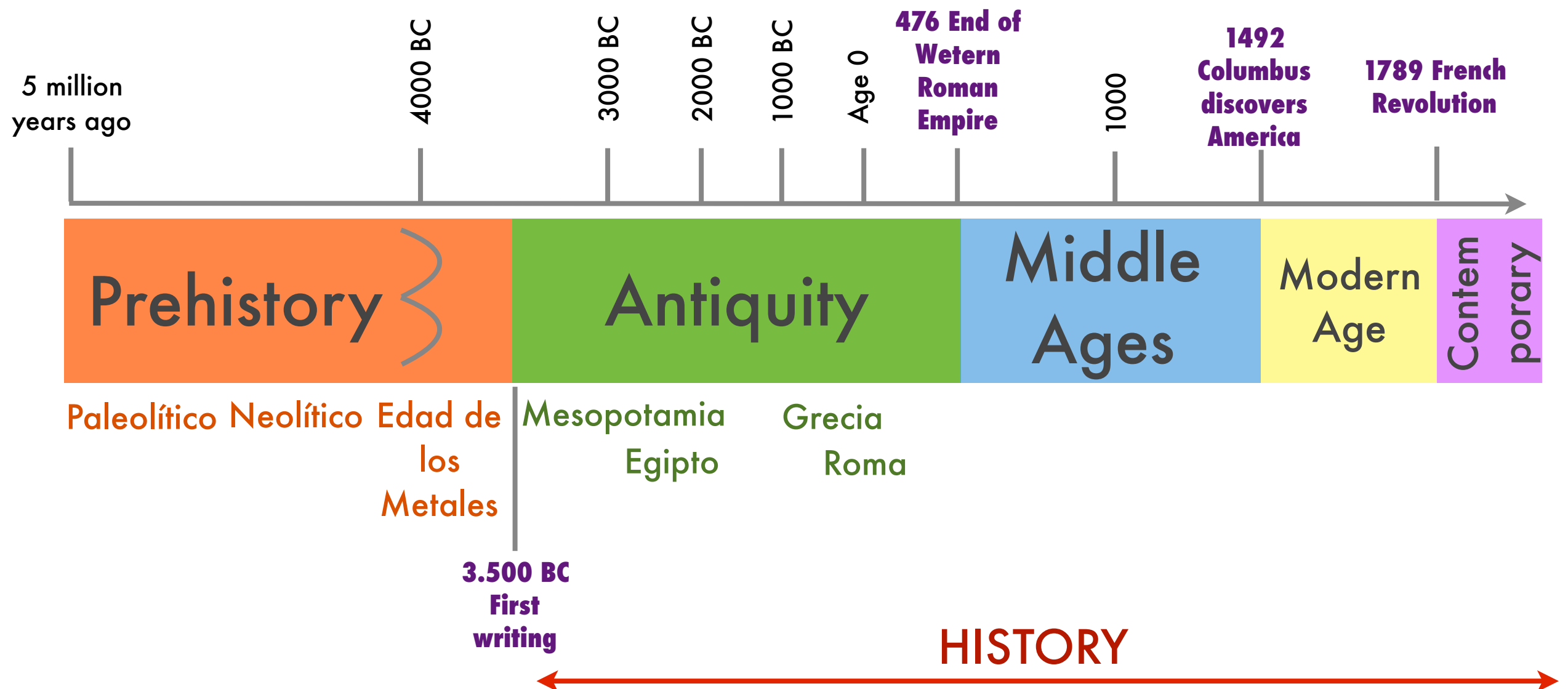
How do we **talk about decades, centuries** and **millenniums**?

- Decades** are named after the **first year** of the decade, so the decade 1920-1929 is called the **nineteen-twenties** (or **1920s**).
- Centuries** are named after the **last year** of the century, so 1901-2000 is called the **twentieth** century.
- Millenniums** are named after their **last year**, so 1001-2000 is called the **second** millennium.



3. TIMELINES

Timelines helps us to show when things happen in history visually. They can show periods an individual events. The periods we choose depend on what we think are the most important events in history

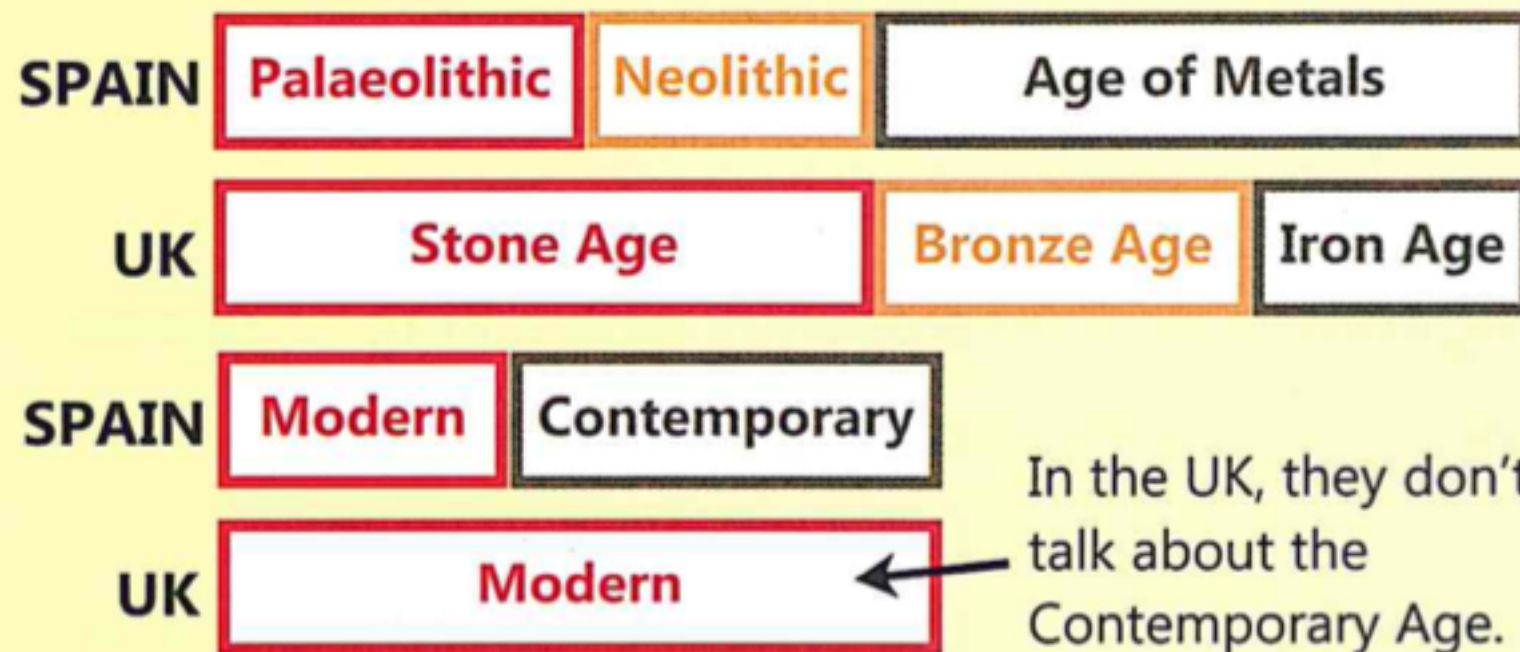


- **PREHISTORY AND HISTORY:** History only starts when people learn to write. We call the period before that prehistory.
- On the timeline there is a } in prehistory. This is to show that prehistory is really much } longer than history.
- In fact prehistory is so much longer than history that it wouldn't fit on the page. To give you an idea of how long prehistory is, imagine the life of a man who was born at the start of prehistory and who is 80 today.
 - When he is a baby, he already knows how to use stone tools
 - He only learns to write when he is 79 years and 11 months old
 - In his life, Christ was born less than two weeks ago
 - In his life, television was only invented about 10 hours ago

TIMELINES IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

Different countries think that *different events* are **important**. A **timeline** for the **UK** has **two main differences** from the Spanish timeline:

1. They divide the time into **different periods**:



2. The **important events** are **different** in the UK:

1066: Battle of Hastings

1485: Battle of Bosworth Field (start of the Modern Age in the UK - seven years earlier than in Spain)