

Past, present and future

Related outcomes

- WM 3.1: A student extends a mathematical investigation by asking “what if” questions.
- WM 3.6: A student selects appropriate technology and uses it to help carry out mathematical investigations.
- M 3.7: A student uses 24 hour time and a.m. and p.m. notation to read, construct and interpret timetables and timelines in real life situations.
- N 3.1: A student counts, compares and orders whole numbers up to seven digits, and represents them in symbols and words.
- VA 13: A student realises that justification of intuitive insights is important.
- VA 17: A student appreciates aspects of the historical development of mathematics.

Possible indicators

- A student can:
- develop a timeline for a series of events
 - sequence numbers in order up to millions
 - compare the relative sizes of numbers.

Syllabus links

Measurement Number	Time 15 Numeration 15
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Teaching activity

1. Present students with the following data. This material is reproduced at the end of the activity (Worksheet 1).

YEARS AGO	EVENT
60 000 (approximately)	Earliest physical evidence of Aboriginal people in Australia
23 000	Oldest known human remains found in Tasmania
4.5 million	Rodents reach Australia, rapidly spread and evolve
2 million	Ice Age begins. Australia more arid, cool to mild climate
17 000	Australia extremely arid: most giant marsupials extinct
30 000	Oldest known human remains found on Australian mainland (Lake Mungo)
4000	First dogs (dingoes) reach Australia
210	First European settlers
12 000	Land bridge to Tasmania finally severed by rising sea level
6000	Last Australian mainland volcano extinct

2. In groups, or individually, students arrange the events in a timeline.
3. In groups, students research and discuss one of the above facts, then present findings to the class. Information could be obtained electronically via the Internet or CD-ROM materials.
4. Students predict events that may impact on the environment in the future. These are added to the timeline developed above.
5. Timelines are shared with the class or displayed in the classroom.

Language

extinct, million, thousand, hundred

Equipment

Worksheet 1: *Timeline*

YEARS AGO

EVENT

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