

## Literacy Activities

1. Choose "chapters" as the units in a custom TimeLine. Then have students collaborate to sequence the events in the chapters of a book they are reading. To sequence a book without chapters, sequence events in numerical order.
2. Create a TimeLine displaying how a character changes over time. (If you record the changes in a character by "chapters," then you can merge the "character" TimeLine with the "chapter" TimeLine and see what events may have led to changes in the character.
3. Create a "Day in the Life of (name of a character from a book) " TimeLine.
4. When reading historical fiction, consider creating a Timeline of historical events. Then create a TimeLine of the fictional character and fictional events of the book. Then merge the two together. Students will be able to see how actual historical events shape the lives of people and society.
5. To help students understand the changes in their community over time, you could have them illustrate each of the historical time periods of the community along with adding illustrations of specific events. The illustrations could be imported and linked to the flags on the TimeLine for a powerful slide show that will especially benefit your visual learners.
6. For Great Expository Writing, you may consider having students develop "A Day in the Life Of:" TimeLines for the following persons:
  - ◆ The Tooth Fairy
  - ◆ Santa Claus
  - ◆ A Famous Inventor
  - ◆ People in Specific Careers
  - ◆ Historical Figures
  - ◆ People with Unusual Life Adventures. (the businessman who paid to go on a Space Mission)
  - ◆ Middle School Students could produce a "Day in the Life of a Middle School Student" to show to the incoming 6th graders
  - ◆ Fifth Grade Students could produce "A Day in the Life of an Elementary Student"
  - ◆ Lower Elementary students could make one for new kindergarteners.
  - ◆ Someone from another Culture (This would be a great compare and contrast activity if you had students from more than one culture completing a TimeLine. You could even do "A Year in the life of" if you wanted to cover all the different holidays in a culture.)
  - ◆ A child's Grandparent when they were a child

7. For prewriting you can help students create a Timeline of the story they plan to write. They can sequence the events of their story in order. Then they can use the first printed draft to help them tell the story to a friend. As they tell the story aloud they may notice events they will need to move in order for the story to flow and make sense. They can make changes easily, then print out a page to use as a guide as they write a final draft.
8. You could use inches as the scale and then type in the heights of the students in your class at the beginning, middle, and end of the year. Merge the three Timelines and students will be able to see how they've grown during the year.
9. Students could use it to create a portfolio of the school year.
10. Using the "Merge Timelines" feature, students can create comparisons. It might be helpful to compare what students their age do in a day today with what students their age did in a day 100 years ago.
11. You could graph out the steps of a long term project, print it in the banner view to provide a visual that helps students more wisely budget their time. Seeing the steps will help many students organize better.
12. To help fifth graders understand the causes and effects of the American Revolution, you may have different groups create Timelines of the events of the war, the socio-economic pressures, land acquisition, problems the government faced, religious issues, and published persuasive writings. Then you might merge the Timelines and discuss the cause and effect relationships of different happenings.
13. In science, students could describe and illustrate (with drawings or photos) the different stages of growth for their plants.
14. Students studying the weather may create a Timeline with descriptive writings about weather conditions each day.
15. To record change over time, students may write about and illustrate the transformation of tadpoles into frogs, silkworms into butterflies, and eggs into chicks.
16. It could be helpful to create a Timeline that compares the size of people to different animals, or the planets to each other. You could attach a photo of each person, animal, or planet as well as a child's written or audio description!
17. To review readings, it would be good to have students re-read books and create sequencing Timelines and book reviews.
18. To better understand the plot of a book, it may help to have students record the events on a Timeline.
19. Students can create great Timelines of the lives of their favorite authors. Other students could type in the books written by the author on the dates they were published. Then, students can type or record book reviews to play in the Slide Show View, encouraging others to read the book.
20. Students could dress up as the characters in the books and share video clips or recordings with scanned drawings encouraging students to read other books by an author on an author's life Timeline.