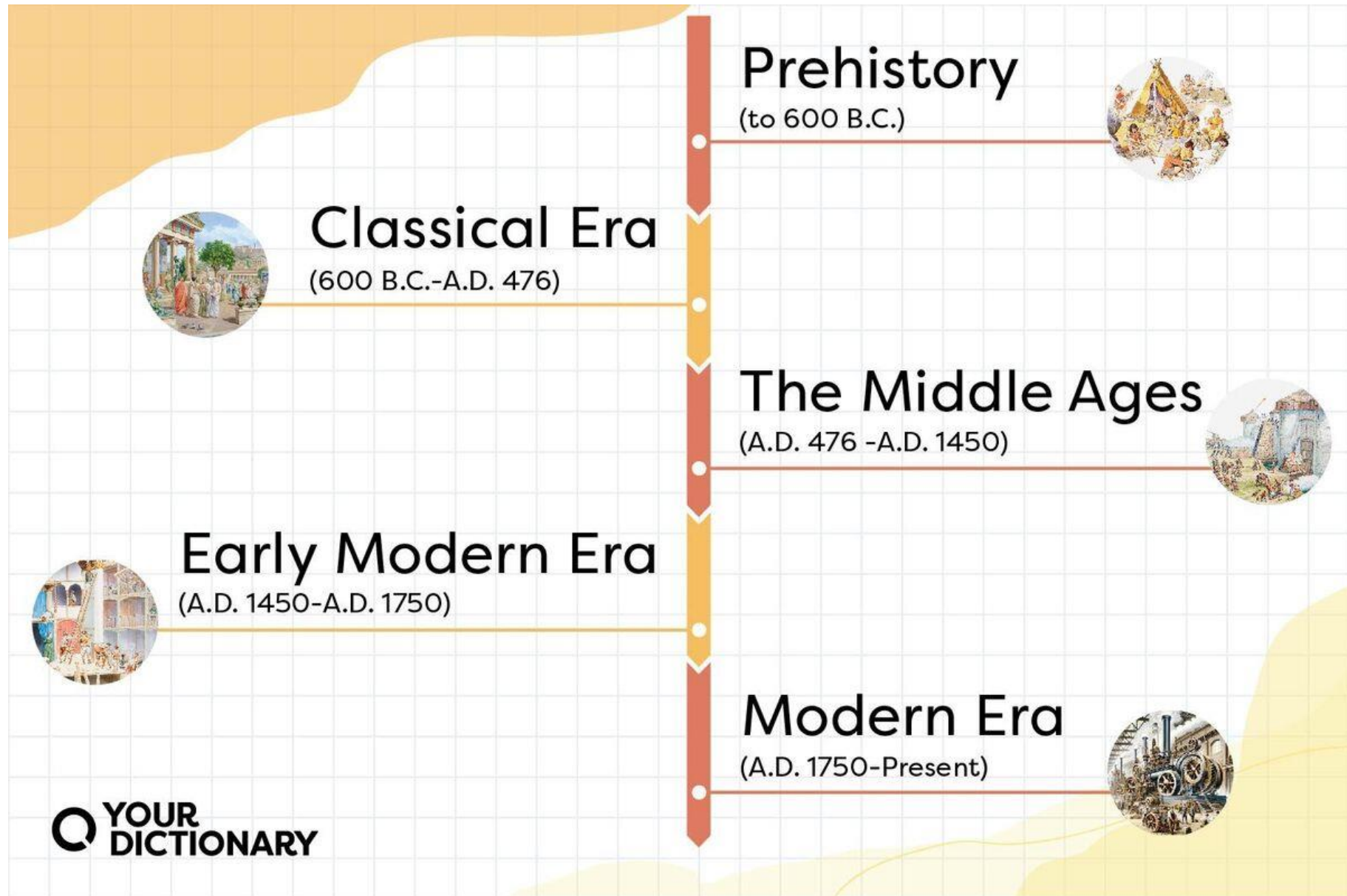


TIMELINE OF HISTORICAL ERAS



2.5 million years ago to 500 BCE	Prehistory <i>(time for which there are no written records)</i>	2.5 million BCE – 3,000 BCE	Stone Age	Depending on the region, humans appear on the planet
		3,000 BCE – 1,300 BCE	Bronze Age	Settlements in Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley and ancient Egypt
		1,200 BCE – 600 BCE	Iron Age	Formation of planned cities; the introduction of ironworks, steel, and writing systems occurs
		5,000 BCE – 333 BCE	Ancient Mesopotamia	Earliest known civilisations (irrigation systems, first cities, first writing system, first legal code)
		5,000 BCE – 30 BCE	Ancient Egypt	Earliest known civilisations (first cities, architecture, sculpture, painting, writing system)
600 BCE – 500 CE	Classical era	600 BCE – 600 CE	Ancient Greece	Foundation of democracy, philosophy, mathematics, drama and poetry
		750 BCE – 500 CE	Ancient Rome	Development of a codified legal system, irrigation, architecture, city roads and Christianity
		550 BCE – 330 BCE	Persian Empire	New powers develop after the collapse of the Roman Empire
		300 CE – 1450 CE	Byzantine Empire	The only major power not to fall until the Renaissance!
500 CE – 1,450 CE	The Middle Ages	500 CE – 1,000 CE	Early Middle Ages	- New powers develop after the fall of the Roman Empire ⇒ Beginning of Islamic rule in the Middle East
		1,000 CE – 1,250 CE	High Middle Ages	Crusades
		1,250 CE – 1,450 CE	Late Middle Ages	- Bubonic Plague / Black Death ⇒ Invention of Printing
1,450 CE – 1,750 CE	Early Modern Era	1,400 CE – 1,600 CE	Renaissance	- Rediscovery of classical knowledge - Achievements in arts (Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci)
		1,400 CE – 1,650 CE	Age of discovery / exploration	- Astronomy (Copernicus, Galileo) - Discovery of new parts of the world and new sea routes (New World, Route from Europe to India) - New food and new products ⇒ Early colonisation (Settler colonies) ⇒ Foundation for European colonialism (esp. Spanish, Portuguese and English)
		1,500 CE – 1,650 CE	Protestant Reformation	Protestant reformation (Religious movement in which Lutheranism broke with the Catholic Church – Calvinism, Anglicanism)
		1,650 CE – 1,800 CE	Age of reason / Enlightenment	Period when science and reason rather than religion and tradition were emphasized

1,750 CE – Present	Modern Era	1,764 CE – 1,850 CE	Revolutionary Period	American Revolution, French Revolution, European revolutions of 1848
		1,760 CE – 1,900 CE	Industrial Revolution	Period of rapid industrialization and technological advancement, which led to significant changes in manufacturing, transportation, and urbanization, shifting economies from agrarian to industrial. (Invention of steam-powered machines, later of the light bulb, the telephone, the airplane, the car etc.)
		1,800 CE – 1,914 CE	Age of Imperialism	- Period in which France, Britain, the Netherlands, and the United States colonised other nations around the world - Unification of Italy and Germany
		1,837 CE – 1,900 CE	In UK - 'Victorian' Era	End of African slavery, American Civil War
		1,914 CE – 1,918 CE	World War I	Conflict originating in Europe, but spreading around the globe due to imperial possessions of the main belligerents
		1,929 CE – 1,939 CE	Great Depression	Period of worldwide economic hardship the started with the stock market crash in 1929
		1,939 CE – 1,945 CE	World War II	
			Cold War	Period of international conflict: proxy wars and cultural competitions between the US and the USSR
			Since 1991 CE	Period in which technological advances define social, economic and political life

Please note

The above table represents history as it was experienced in Western Europe. Russia, for instance, did not participate in the Crusades. it was not affected by the Renaissance or the Reformation. The Industrial Revolution arrived there much later than in Western Europe.