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The dates for the period of history are approximate and reflect the research of the author and editors, who acknowledge that not all historians will agree with them. Ideas to encourage students to put the twentieth century in historical context follow this chronology.

## **The Twentieth Century (1900–Present) — Time Line**

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|------------------|---|
| <b>1881–1973</b> | Pablo Picasso, artist and popularizer of Cubism, lives              |
| <b>1898–1976</b> | Alexander Calder, creator of moving sculpture (mobiles) lives       |
| <b>1900</b>      | Fin de siècle—the end of an age—is celebrated                       |
| <b>1900–1991</b> | Composer Aaron Copeland lives                                       |
| <b>c. 1909</b>   | Futurism begins in Italy  |
| <b>1912–1956</b> | Abstract Expressionist Jackson Pollock lives                        |
| <b>1914–1917</b> | World War I is fought   |
| <b>1915</b>      | Dadaism begins  |
| <b>1925</b>      | Surrealists hold first cooperative exhibit                          |
| <b>1929</b>      | The Great Depression begins   |
| <b>1939–1945</b> | World War II is fought; ends with explosion of atomic bomb in Japan |

<b>c. 1939</b>	Television is invented
<b>1940s–1950s</b>	Abstract Expressionism develops; Red scare leads to Cold War that lasts over 40 years
<b>1946</b>	First electronic digital computer is built
<b>1950s</b>	Pop art begins
<b>1950–1953</b>	Korean Conflict is fought
<b>1955–1965</b>	France, Great Britain, and Belgium lose their colonial empires in violent independence movements in Asia and Africa
<b>1959</b>	Frank Lloyd Wright designs the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York
<b>1960–1972</b>	Vietnam War is fought
<b>1969</b>	Americans land on the moon
<b>1979–1981</b>	Iranians hold 59 Americans hostage
<b>1983</b>	Maya Lin completes the Vietnam Veterans Memorial “Wall”
<b>1991</b>	Operation Desert Storm is fought in Middle East
<b>1992</b>	Soviet Union collapses

## **Time Line Classroom Activities**

1. **Adding to the chronology.** Reproduce a copy of this chronology for your students. Have them add another significant event between several (or selected) entries, and ask them to be prepared to explain why the event was important to understanding the period. As a variation, have students add events from other parts of the world and explain how the event is similar to or different from the other events on the chronology.
2. **Making a classroom time line.** Attach a roll of shelf paper to a bulletin board or wall. Have students draw a time line on the paper and transfer the information from the chronology to the time line. They can then illustrate each event with a drawing.
3. **Linking past to present.** Include the current year (or their birth year) in the chronology or time line, and have students count and record the number of intervening years.
4. **Researching and presenting reports.** Assign news bulletin-type mini-reports on each topic in the chronology and have students deliver the reports as if they were doing a radio broadcast.