**I. From the Big Bang to the End of the Before Common Era**

[15,000,000,000 B.C.E. - Universe begins 15 billion years ago](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/15000000000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BUniverse%2Bbegins%2B15%2Bbillion%2Byears%2Bago)

[5,000,000,000 B.C. - Solar systems form 5 billion years ago](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/5000000000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BSolar%2Bsystems%2Bform%2B5%2Bbillion%2Byears%2Bago)
[4,600,000,000 B.C. - Earth and moon form 4.6 billion years ago](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/4600000000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BEarth%2Band%2Bmoon%2Bform%2B4.6%2Bbillion%2Byears%2Bago)
[3,800,000,000 B.C. - Earth's crust and oceans form 3.8 billion years ago](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/3800000000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BEarth%EF%BF%BDs%2Bcrust%2Band%2Boceans%2Bform%2B3.8%2Bbillion%2Byears%2Bago)
[2,000,000,000 B.C. - Oxygen appears in earth's atmosphere 2 billion years ago](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/2000000000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BOxygen%2Bappears%2Bin%2Bearth%EF%BF%BDs%2Batmosphere%2B2%2Bbillion%2Byears%2Bago)
[2,000,000,000 B.C. - Earth's surface breaks into two continents](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/2000000000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BEarth%27s%2Bsurface%2Bbreaks%2Binto%2Btwo%2Bcontinents)
[1,000,000,000 B.C. - Earth's two land masses further divide into five continents](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/1000000000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BEarth%27s%2Btwo%2Bland%2Bmasses%2Bfurther%2Bdivide%2Binto%2Bfive%2Bcontinents)
[1,000,000,000 B.C. - Oxygen levels permit plant life](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/1000000000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BOxygen%2Blevels%2Bpermit%2Bplant%2Blife)
[600,000,000 B.C. - Multicellular life begins](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/600000000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BMulticellular%2Blife%2Bbegins)

[500,000,000 B.C. - Recognizably human species evolve](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/500000000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BRecognizably%2Bhuman%2Bspecies%2Bevolve)
[458,000,000 B.C. - North America forms](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/458000000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BNorth%2BAmerica%2Bforms)
[370,000,000 B.C. - Sea-dwelling living forms come ashore](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/370000000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BSea-dwelling%2Bliving%2Bforms%2Bcome%2Bashore)
[200,000,000 B.C. - Vertebrate life begins](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/200000000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BVertebrate%2Blife%2Bbegins)
[152,000,000 B.C. - Birth of Atlantic Ocean](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/152000000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BBirth%2Bof%2BAtlantic%2BOcean)

[1,000,000 B.C. - Humans migrate from Africa to Asia](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/1000000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BHumans%2Bmigrate%2Bfrom%2BAfrica%2Bto%2BAsia)
[500,000 B.C. - Humans migrate into Europe](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/500000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BHumans%2Bmigrate%2Binto%2BEurope)
[50,000 B.C. - Humans in Eurasia develop the use of stone tools](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/50000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BHumans%2Bin%2BEurasia%2Bdevelop%2Bthe%2Buse%2Bof%2Bstone%2Btools)
[35,000 B.C. - Humans migrate from South Asia to New Guinea and Australia](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/35000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BHumans%2Bmigrate%2Bfrom%2BSouth%2BAsia%2Bto%2BNew%2BGuinea%2Band%2BAustralia)
[18,000 B.C. - Last Ice Age Begins](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/18000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BLast%2BIce%2BAge%2BBegins)
[10, 000 B.C. - End of the Last Ice Age](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/10000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BEnd%2Bof%2Bthe%2BLast%2BIce%2BAge)

[10,000 B.C. - Land bridge across Bering Strait provides route for humans into America](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/10000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BLand%2Bbridge%2Bacross%2BBering%2BStrait%2Bprovides%2Broute%2Bfor%2Bhumans%2Binto%2BAmerica)
[9000 B.C. - Human settlement of North America reaches as far south as New Mexico](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/9000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BHuman%2Bsettlement%2Bof%2BNorth%2BAmerica%2Breaches%2Bas%2Bfar%2Bsouth%2Bas%2BNew%2BMexico)
[8000 B.C. - Mesolithic Period Begins](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/8000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BMesolithic%2BPeriod%2BBegins)
[7500 B.C. - Boats sailing in Aegean from island to island](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/7500%2BB.C.%2B-%2BBoats%2Bsailing%2Bin%2BAegean%2Bfrom%2Bisland%2Bto%2Bisland)
[7000 B.C. - Era of first known log boats](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/7000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BEra%2Bof%2Bfirst%2Bknown%2Blog%2Bboats)
[6500 B.C. - Human food production & domestication of animals begins in Middle East](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/6500%2BB.C.%2B-%2BHuman%2Bfood%2Bproduction%2B%26%2Bdomestication%2Bof%2Banimals%2Bbegins%2Bin%2BMiddle%2BEast)
[6500 B.C. - Neolithic Age farmers settle Crete and Cyprus](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/6500%2BB.C.%2B-%2BNeolithic%2BAge%2Bfarmers%2Bsettle%2BCrete%2Band%2BCyprus)
[6000 B.C. - Evidence of deep sea fishing in Scandinavia](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/6000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BEvidence%2Bof%2Bdeep%2Bsea%2Bfishing%2Bin%2BScandinavia)
[5000 B.C. - First image of watercraft](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/5000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BFirst%2Bimage%2Bof%2Bwatercraft)
[4000 B.C. - Food production techniques reach Britain & Ireland](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/4000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BFood%2Bproduction%2Btechniques%2Breach%2BBritain%2B%26%2BIreland)
[3500 B.C. - Sumerian efforts to harness Tigris and Euphrates](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/3500%2BB.C.%2B-%2BSumerian%2Befforts%2Bto%2Bharness%2BTigris%2Band%2BEuphrates)
[3100 B.C. - Earliest image of a sail on a watercraft](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/3100%2BB.C.%2B-%2BEarliest%2Bimage%2Bof%2Ba%2Bsail%2Bon%2Ba%2Bwatercraft)
[3000 B.C. - Evidence of shell-first boat construction](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Evidence%2Bof%2Bshell-first%2Bboat%2Bconstruction)
[3000 B.C. - Rise of Minoan/Mycenean power in Aegean region](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/3000%2BB.C.%2B-%2BRise%2Bof%2BMinoan%2BMycenean%2Bpower%2Bin%2BAegean%2Bre)
[2750 B.C. - Egyptian expedition in Red Sea](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Egyptian%2Bexpedition%2Bin%2BRed%2BSea)
[2600 B.C. - Egyptian maritime excursions to Syria](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Egyptian%2Bmaritime%2Bexcursions%2Bto%2BSyria)
[2500 B.C. - Polynesians begin migrations across the South Pacific](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Polynesians%2Bbegin%2Bmigrations%2Bacross%2Bthe%2BSouth%2BPacific)
[2500 B.C. - Period of the Cleops boat](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Period%2Bof%2Bthe%2BCleops%2Bboat)
[2500 B.C. - //Gilgamesh Tales// written in Mesopotamia](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Gilgamesh%2BTales%2Bwritten%2Bin%2BMesopotamia)
[2400 B.C. - Egyptians sail in Indian Ocean](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Egyptians%2Bsail%2Bin%2BIndian%2BOcean)
[2200 B.C. - Egyptian tale of "Shipwrecked Sailor"](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Egyptian%2Btale%2Bof%2BShipwrecked%2BSailor)
[2000 B.C. - Babylonian maps etched in stone](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Babylonian%2Bmaps%2Betched%2Bin%2Bstone)
[1800 B.C. - Time of Old Testament prophet Abraham](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Time%2Bof%2BOld%2BTestament%2Bprophet%2BAbraham)
[1600 B.C. - Plank boats in use in Western Europe](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Plank%2Bboats%2Bin%2Buse%2Bin%2BWestern%2BEurope)
[1500 B.C. - Keel introduced into hull construction](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Keel%2Bintroduced%2Binto%2Bhull%2Bconstruction)

[1200 B.C. - Time of Trojan War about which Homer later wrote](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Time%2Bof%2BTrojan%2BWar%2Babout%2Bwhich%2BHomer%2Blater%2Bwrote)
[1000 B.C. - Phoenicians control eastern Mediterranean](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Phoenicians%2Bcontrol%2Beastern%2BMediterranean)
[900 B.C. - Biremes put into seagoing service](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Biremes%2Bput%2Binto%2Bseagoing%2Bservice)
[814 B.C. - Phoenicians venture into the eastern Atlantic](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Phoenicians%2Bventure%2Binto%2Bthe%2BAtlantic)
[800 B.C. - Homer writes //\_\_The Iliad\_\_// and //The Odyssey//\_\_](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Homer%2Bwrites%2B__The%2BIliad__%2Band%2B__The%2BOdyssey__)
[750 B.C. - Phoenicians sail down African coast](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Phoenicians%2Bsail%2Bdown%2BAfrican%2Bcoast)
[700 B.C. - Phoenicians establish Cadiz as Atlantic port](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Phoenicians%2Bestablish%2BCadiz%2Bas%2BAtlantic%2Bport)
[600 B.C. - Noah's ark built and launched](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Noah%27s%2Bark%2Bbuilt%2Band%2Blaunched)
[520 B.C. - Hanno sails along West African coast](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Hanno%2Bsails%2Balong%2BWest%2BAfrican%2Bcoast)
[500 B.C. - Greeks introduce trireme](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Greeks%2Bintroduce%2Btrireme)
[480 B.C. - Battle of Salamis](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Battle%2Bof%2BSalamis)
[440 B.C. - Herodotus writes of earlier Greco-Persian maritime conflicts](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Herodotus%2Bwrites%2Bon%2Bearlier%2Bmaritime%2Bconflicts)
[431 B.C. - Peloponnesian War begins](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Peloponnesian%2BWar%2Bbegins)
[415 B.C. - Athenian naval siege of Sicily](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Athenian%2Bnaval%2Bsiege%2Bof%2BSicily)
[410 B.C. - Thucydides' writes //History of Peloponessian War//](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Thucydides%27s%2B__History%2Bof%2BPeloponessian%2BWar__)
[403 B.C. - Peloponnesian War ends](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Peloponnesian%2BWar%2Bends)
[350 B.C. - Greeks add India to world maps](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Greeks%2Badd%2BIndia%2Bto%2Bworld%2Bmaps)
[350 B.C. - Alexander the Great mounts overland expedition](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Alexander%2Bthe%2BGreat%2Bmounts%2Boverland%2Bexpedition)
[330 B.C. - Aristotle writes about the sea](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Aristotle%2Bwrites%2Babout%2Bthe%2Bsea)
[330 B.C. - Greeks on naval expeditions in Indian Ocean](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Greeks%2Bon%2Bnaval%2Bexpeditions%2Bin%2BIndian%2BOcean)
[324 B.C. - Pytheas sails north of Gibraltar to English Channel](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Pytheas%2Bsails%2Bnorth%2Bof%2BGibraltar%2Bto%2BEnglish%2BChannel)
[264 B.C. - Commencement of the Punic Wars](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Commencement%2Bof%2Bthe%2BPunic%2BWars)
[250 B.C. - Eratosthenes develops global measurement akin to latitude](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Eratosthenes%2Bdevelops%2Bmeasurement%2Bakin%2Bto%2Blatitude)
[241 B.C. - Roman victorious in First Punic War](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Roman%2Bvictorious%2Bin%2BFirst%2BPunic%2BWar)
[202 B.C. - Punic Wars conclude with Rome triumphant](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Punic%2BWars%2Bconclude%2Bwith%2BRome%2Btriumphant)
[150 B.C. - Selonius correlates tidal fluctuations to the movements of the moon](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Selonius%2Bcorrelates%2Btidal%2Bfluctuations%2Bto%2Bthe%2Bmoon)
[140 B.C. - Hipparchus divides Earth's circumference into degrees](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Hipparchus%2Bdivides%2BEarth%27s%2Bcircumference%2Binto%2Bdegrees)
[54 B.C. - Caesar lands amphibious force on British coast](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Caesar%2Blands%2Bamphibious%2Bforce%2Bon%2BBritish%2Bcoast)
[31 B.C. - Roman control of Mediterranean sea lanes begins](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Roman%2Bcontrol%2Bof%2BMediterranean%2Bsea%2Blanes%2Bbegins)
[31 B.C. - Battle of Actium](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Battle%2Bof%2BActium)

End of the B.C. E.