**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+B.C.+-+Universe+begins+15+billion+years+ago)  
  
[5,000,000,000 B.C. - Solar systems form 5 billion years ago](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/5000000000+B.C.+-+Solar+systems+form+5+billion+years+ago)  
[4,600,000,000 B.C. - Earth and moon form 4.6 billion years ago](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/4600000000+B.C.+-+Earth+and+moon+form+4.6+billion+years+ago)  
[3,800,000,000 B.C. - Earth's crust and oceans form 3.8 billion years ago](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/3800000000+B.C.+-+Earth%EF%BF%BDs+crust+and+oceans+form+3.8+billion+years+ago)  
[2,000,000,000 B.C. - Oxygen appears in earth's atmosphere 2 billion years ago](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/2000000000+B.C.+-+Oxygen+appears+in+earth%EF%BF%BDs+atmosphere+2+billion+years+ago)  
[2,000,000,000 B.C. - Earth's surface breaks into two continents](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/2000000000+B.C.+-+Earth%27s+surface+breaks+into+two+continents)  
[1,000,000,000 B.C. - Earth's two land masses further divide into five continents](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/1000000000+B.C.+-+Earth%27s+two+land+masses+further+divide+into+five+continents)  
[1,000,000,000 B.C. - Oxygen levels permit plant life](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/1000000000+B.C.+-+Oxygen+levels+permit+plant+life)  
[600,000,000 B.C. - Multicellular life begins](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/600000000+B.C.+-+Multicellular+life+begins)

[500,000,000 B.C. - Recognizably human species evolve](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/500000000+B.C.+-+Recognizably+human+species+evolve)  
[458,000,000 B.C. - North America forms](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/458000000+B.C.+-+North+America+forms)  
[370,000,000 B.C. - Sea-dwelling living forms come ashore](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/370000000+B.C.+-+Sea-dwelling+living+forms+come+ashore)  
[200,000,000 B.C. - Vertebrate life begins](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/200000000+B.C.+-+Vertebrate+life+begins)  
[152,000,000 B.C. - Birth of Atlantic Ocean](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/152000000+B.C.+-+Birth+of+Atlantic+Ocean)  
  
[1,000,000 B.C. - Humans migrate from Africa to Asia](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/1000000+B.C.+-+Humans+migrate+from+Africa+to+Asia)  
[500,000 B.C. - Humans migrate into Europe](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/500000+B.C.+-+Humans+migrate+into+Europe)  
[50,000 B.C. - Humans in Eurasia develop the use of stone tools](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/50000+B.C.+-+Humans+in+Eurasia+develop+the+use+of+stone+tools)  
[35,000 B.C. - Humans migrate from South Asia to New Guinea and Australia](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/35000+B.C.+-+Humans+migrate+from+South+Asia+to+New+Guinea+and+Australia)  
[18,000 B.C. - Last Ice Age Begins](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/18000+B.C.+-+Last+Ice+Age+Begins)  
[10, 000 B.C. - End of the Last Ice Age](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/10000+B.C.+-+End+of+the+Last+Ice+Age)  
  
[10,000 B.C. - Land bridge across Bering Strait provides route for humans into America](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/10000+B.C.+-+Land+bridge+across+Bering+Strait+provides+route+for+humans+into+America)  
[9000 B.C. - Human settlement of North America reaches as far south as New Mexico](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/9000+B.C.+-+Human+settlement+of+North+America+reaches+as+far+south+as+New+Mexico)  
[8000 B.C. - Mesolithic Period Begins](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/8000+B.C.+-+Mesolithic+Period+Begins)  
[7500 B.C. - Boats sailing in Aegean from island to island](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/7500+B.C.+-+Boats+sailing+in+Aegean+from+island+to+island)  
[7000 B.C. - Era of first known log boats](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/7000+B.C.+-+Era+of+first+known+log+boats)  
[6500 B.C. - Human food production & domestication of animals begins in Middle East](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/6500+B.C.+-+Human+food+production+%26+domestication+of+animals+begins+in+Middle+East)  
[6500 B.C. - Neolithic Age farmers settle Crete and Cyprus](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/6500+B.C.+-+Neolithic+Age+farmers+settle+Crete+and+Cyprus)  
[6000 B.C. - Evidence of deep sea fishing in Scandinavia](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/6000+B.C.+-+Evidence+of+deep+sea+fishing+in+Scandinavia)  
[5000 B.C. - First image of watercraft](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/5000+B.C.+-+First+image+of+watercraft)  
[4000 B.C. - Food production techniques reach Britain & Ireland](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/4000+B.C.+-+Food+production+techniques+reach+Britain+%26+Ireland)  
[3500 B.C. - Sumerian efforts to harness Tigris and Euphrates](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/3500+B.C.+-+Sumerian+efforts+to+harness+Tigris+and+Euphrates)  
[3100 B.C. - Earliest image of a sail on a watercraft](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/3100+B.C.+-+Earliest+image+of+a+sail+on+a+watercraft)  
[3000 B.C. - Evidence of shell-first boat construction](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Evidence+of+shell-first+boat+construction)  
[3000 B.C. - Rise of Minoan/Mycenean power in Aegean region](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/3000+B.C.+-+Rise+of+Minoan+Mycenean+power+in+Aegean+re)  
[2750 B.C. - Egyptian expedition in Red Sea](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Egyptian+expedition+in+Red+Sea)  
[2600 B.C. - Egyptian maritime excursions to Syria](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Egyptian+maritime+excursions+to+Syria)  
[2500 B.C. - Polynesians begin migrations across the South Pacific](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Polynesians+begin+migrations+across+the+South+Pacific)  
[2500 B.C. - Period of the Cleops boat](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Period+of+the+Cleops+boat)  
[2500 B.C. - //Gilgamesh Tales// written in Mesopotamia](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Gilgamesh+Tales+written+in+Mesopotamia)  
[2400 B.C. - Egyptians sail in Indian Ocean](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Egyptians+sail+in+Indian+Ocean)  
[2200 B.C. - Egyptian tale of "Shipwrecked Sailor"](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Egyptian+tale+of+Shipwrecked+Sailor)  
[2000 B.C. - Babylonian maps etched in stone](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Babylonian+maps+etched+in+stone)  
[1800 B.C. - Time of Old Testament prophet Abraham](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Time+of+Old+Testament+prophet+Abraham)  
[1600 B.C. - Plank boats in use in Western Europe](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Plank+boats+in+use+in+Western+Europe)  
[1500 B.C. - Keel introduced into hull construction](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Keel+introduced+into+hull+construction)  
  
[1200 B.C. - Time of Trojan War about which Homer later wrote](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Time+of+Trojan+War+about+which+Homer+later+wrote)  
[1000 B.C. - Phoenicians control eastern Mediterranean](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Phoenicians+control+eastern+Mediterranean)  
[900 B.C. - Biremes put into seagoing service](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Biremes+put+into+seagoing+service)  
[814 B.C. - Phoenicians venture into the eastern Atlantic](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Phoenicians+venture+into+the+Atlantic)  
[800 B.C. - Homer writes //\_\_The Iliad\_\_// and //The Odyssey//\_\_](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Homer+writes+__The+Iliad__+and+__The+Odyssey__)  
[750 B.C. - Phoenicians sail down African coast](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Phoenicians+sail+down+African+coast)  
[700 B.C. - Phoenicians establish Cadiz as Atlantic port](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Phoenicians+establish+Cadiz+as+Atlantic+port)  
[600 B.C. - Noah's ark built and launched](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Noah%27s+ark+built+and+launched)  
[520 B.C. - Hanno sails along West African coast](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Hanno+sails+along+West+African+coast)  
[500 B.C. - Greeks introduce trireme](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Greeks+introduce+trireme)  
[480 B.C. - Battle of Salamis](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Battle+of+Salamis)  
[440 B.C. - Herodotus writes of earlier Greco-Persian maritime conflicts](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Herodotus+writes+on+earlier+maritime+conflicts)  
[431 B.C. - Peloponnesian War begins](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Peloponnesian+War+begins)  
[415 B.C. - Athenian naval siege of Sicily](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Athenian+naval+siege+of+Sicily)  
[410 B.C. - Thucydides' writes //History of Peloponessian War//](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Thucydides%27s+__History+of+Peloponessian+War__)   
[403 B.C. - Peloponnesian War ends](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Peloponnesian+War+ends)  
[350 B.C. - Greeks add India to world maps](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Greeks+add+India+to+world+maps)  
[350 B.C. - Alexander the Great mounts overland expedition](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Alexander+the+Great+mounts+overland+expedition)  
[330 B.C. - Aristotle writes about the sea](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Aristotle+writes+about+the+sea)  
[330 B.C. - Greeks on naval expeditions in Indian Ocean](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Greeks+on+naval+expeditions+in+Indian+Ocean)  
[324 B.C. - Pytheas sails north of Gibraltar to English Channel](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Pytheas+sails+north+of+Gibraltar+to+English+Channel)  
[264 B.C. - Commencement of the Punic Wars](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Commencement+of+the+Punic+Wars)  
[250 B.C. - Eratosthenes develops global measurement akin to latitude](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Eratosthenes+develops+measurement+akin+to+latitude)  
[241 B.C. - Roman victorious in First Punic War](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Roman+victorious+in+First+Punic+War)  
[202 B.C. - Punic Wars conclude with Rome triumphant](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Punic+Wars+conclude+with+Rome+triumphant)  
[150 B.C. - Selonius correlates tidal fluctuations to the movements of the moon](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Selonius+correlates+tidal+fluctuations+to+the+moon)  
[140 B.C. - Hipparchus divides Earth's circumference into degrees](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Hipparchus+divides+Earth%27s+circumference+into+degrees)  
[54 B.C. - Caesar lands amphibious force on British coast](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Caesar+lands+amphibious+force+on+British+coast)  
[31 B.C. - Roman control of Mediterranean sea lanes begins](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Roman+control+of+Mediterranean+sea+lanes+begins)  
[31 B.C. - Battle of Actium](http://neptunesneedle.wikischolars.columbia.edu/Battle+of+Actium)

End of the B.C. E.