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Tender Heart High School,  
Sector 33B, Chandigarh

Class IV

Subject:- Social Studies

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 2  
Timelines

All of us have seen and used a calendar. It lists the days, weeks and months of a year. We use it to plan our activities and stay organized. The calendar that we use is Gregorian calendar, which is used all over the world. It is named after Pope Gregory XIII who introduced it in 1582. It is based on Earth's movement around the Sun. As per the Gregorian calendar, the time that the Earth takes to go around the Sun once is called a year. One year has 365 days (366 days it is a leap year).

We also have another calendar Saka calendar which is our national calendar. It was introduced in 1957. The Saka calendar is 78 years behind the Gregorian calendar. So, to find out which Saka year we are in, we have to subtract 78 from the Gregorian year.

A timeline is useful to arrange events in order in which they happened. In history we study long periods of time. Timelines tell us when an event happened, what happened before it and what happened after it. In history we use BC and AD with years.

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BC stands for before the birth of Christ and AD stands for Anno Domini which means 'in the year of our Lord'. Historians consider the birth of Jesus Christ as the central point. They divide the events into those that happened before the birth of Christ and those that happened after the birth of Christ.

To calculate years in BCE (Before Common Era) we count backwards. Thus 400 BC comes before 300 BCE.

To calculate years in CE we count year forwards. Thus 400 CE (Common Era) comes after 300 CE.

These days historians use BCE for BC and CE for AD.