

Step by Step

BOOK OF CENTURIES

*The ultimate Guide to
History Timelines*
by Cynthia Hancox

- * 25 page guide book full of valuable information
- * Includes 260 printable pages for making your own Book of Centuries!
- * Bonus information on creating Wall Timelines and History Notebooks
- * Over 100 pages of printables to create your own Wall Timeline!

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These pages are a sample from the complete ebook: Step by Step: Book of Centuries - the Ultimate Guide to History Timelines, which may be purchased from <http://www.CynthiaHancox.com/BookofCenturies.html>.

The package comes with a 30 page guidebook and over 360 pages of printables to make your own Book of Centuries and Wall Timeline.

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Bonus Files for Printing:

BOC1 - link provided in purchased ebook

BOC2 - links provided in purchased ebook

Alternative Pages - Link provided in purchased ebook

Bonus Files for Printing a Wall Timeline:

There are 13 files for printing the Wall Timelines.

Each is linked from the download page, and also in the instructions in the full guide

Why a Timeline is Vital to Teaching History

In the study of History, memorizing a lot of dates is not important; unless they have significant meaning to the student, they will soon be forgotten. The important thing about history is the PEOPLE - who they are, what they did, what they learned, how God worked in their lives, how their choices had consequences - both good and bad. Dates are just "hooks", useful to hang things on, and to help connect the various people and facts of history, into a cohesive picture.

This is where timelines come in - by using them to record the people and events they have studied, your student will begin to make connections - to see what was happening in one part of the world while such and such was happening in another, to understand how different world events have a flow-on effect to other parts of the world, to see how things connect together, and where they stand in relation to the flow of time between past and present. A timeline pulls together all the bits of information and history that otherwise can seem unconnected, and gives the bigger picture. And it's these connections that can really excite one about history, and also help one to remember all you have learned!

There are several ways of keeping a timeline, and each has its own advantages, especially for particular age groups. The methods I'm talking about here are for building your own timelines - not buying pre-printed ones. A pre-printed timeline can be a useful and fascinating reference, but can also be confusing with too much information in a small space, and students often don't really retain much information from them, because they don't "own" the information in that they have not studied the people or events behind the notation, and have not had a hand in creating the timeline.

The two main kinds of timelines are ones that go on a wall, and feature dates on one long line or a series of shorter lines, and the type that go in a book or binder, often known as a "Book of Centuries," with pages that are dated in chronological order. In both cases, it is usual to stick on pictures or "timeline figures" representing important people, events, inventions etc next to or under the relevant date.

Three Great Tools for Learning History

I think there are three great tools for learning and understanding history. They are:

- A wall timeline - so everything is visible at once.
- A personal Book of Centuries - so the student records a brief image/caption for what they have learned about and can see it's place in history.
- A History Notebook - a chronological record of what they have learned in more detail, with pictures, narrations, writing and much, much more.

In this ebook, I include printable pages and instructions to make your own "Book of Centuries." I also include some information on wall timelines, and a suggestion for a simple and flexible one I created that may help you see new ways you can create a wall timeline that will work for you! Plus, I will talk about a simple and effective way to create a living "History Notebook" that is a wonderful companion to your Book of Centuries, and contains all the expanded information as you learn about different people and events in history.

We'll take a look at some important information about recording history, time periods and controversy over dating, but first of all, what IS a book of centuries, and why should your students have one?

Book of Centuries

A "Book of Centuries" (BOC) is one book or notebook which contains pages dated by century and divided by periods of history. On each page, the student draws or glues a small picture or symbol representing important events and people of history, and possibly a brief caption or notation.

I first heard of a BOC a few years ago when I became interested in the Charlotte Mason method of home schooling. Since then I have read and heard many things about them, and purchased or downloaded numerous different versions of printable BOC's or "timeline notebooks." Each of them had their merits, but the main difficulty I found was that none of them really suited OUR family, and how we approach history. Some were too complicated, some incorrect, and most of them lacked flexibility to change them and set them up to suit us. So, I have spent many hours researching

and have come to some conclusions and created our own simple, flexible BOC's, which my children now use with joy.

My purpose in writing this ebook is to share information, answer some of the questions and difficulties that come up, encourage you to try this valuable history tool, and show you how you can easily create your OWN Book of Centuries, either with the various printables I have provided, or setting your own up from scratch.

History is a continuing story, one that is still being written. By keeping their own Book of Centuries (and history notebook), your students will be able to see that history IS a book, a story, that has a beginning, includes many people and events that all are interconnected and affect each other, and is building towards an ultimate conclusion. A BOC shows the relationships and flow of history, and also provides your student with constant review; as they open their books to add new figures they will be looking at what is already in their books and considering where to place the new figure. They will be reminded of what they have already learned over and over. ☺ A BOC provides an overview of history in each century; their history notebooks will have greater detail.

Setting up a Book of Centuries

A Book of Centuries, once set up, will become a life-long companion and tool in learning. If your children are very young when they start this, they may wish to create a new BOC in their teen years, when the standard of their writing and work is higher, and that is fine. Their first BOC may still be kept as a treasure. ☺ However, other than the situation mentioned, a person only really needs ONE Book of Centuries. So you want to take a little bit of time thinking about how to do this before you begin. There are a few choices to make. Don't get bogged down in this - just consider the options and pick what seems best to you. You can always make changes, though a little forethought may save you much frustration later. Here are the choices:

1. Bound book or binder? Type of paper or cardstock?
2. Time period divisions?
3. Starting date?
4. Dating of pages - how many years per page?

We look at each of these questions in detail in the full guide.