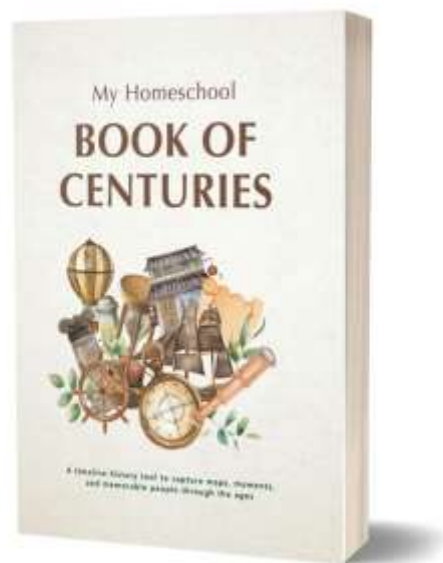


My Homeschool

Book of Centuries



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**“It is necessary to know
something of what has gone
before in order to think justly of
what is occurring today.”**

Charlotte Mason Volume 6:169

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Introduction

Charlotte Mason encouraged children to make a timeline notebook that recorded famous people, events, and dates. These books were used across all subjects and were designed to be a keepsake. The purpose of this type of book was to help children picture history chronologically. It is a child's own reference book of history which is commenced around the age of ten years old and continued throughout their education. It is usually best to allow each child to have their own book. However some families choose to make this a collective exercise and the make a Family Book of Centuries.

A KEEPSAKE

"The Book of Centuries, is a great joy to the owner, and even in these busy days it is possible to find some time, however short, to add an illustration from time to time. Children always take a keen delight in their books. There is no need to be an artist in order to have quite an interesting book—neatness and accuracy are essential though. Museums will be clothed with fresh interest to keepers of these books, who will be able to recognise objects which have already become familiar old friends through their Books of Centuries". Getrude M Bernau—Principal of the PNEU

Drawing inspiration from the time-honoured practice detailed in the Charlotte Mason Method and Classical Homeschooling, the My Homeschool Book of Centuries will transform your history studies into a creative external memory of events, people and places that can be used throughout the homeschool years.

HOW TO USE YOUR BOOK OF CENTURIES

There are five parts to this book.

- ◆ Family Timeline
- ◆ Table of Centuries
- ◆ Maps
- ◆ Book of Centuries Timeline: This part is filled out over the course of a child's education, often starting around age 10 and continuing into high school. New entries are added each year as new periods of history are studied.
- ◆ Notes: At the back of the book there is space for additional notes or sketches about history that have may not fit neatly within a particular century.

MAKING AN ENTRY

One page is a very small space in which to illustrate an entire century; thus, each child should select what they consider the most characteristic events, planning out the arrangement of the page, as much as possible, before drawing. Pencils, erasable pens, or fine ink markers are recommended. Keep entries brief. Think of this book as a personal reference with key words.

Colour illustrations can be added but make note of the paper quality being used so illustrations will not impact the other side of the page.

FINDING ANCIENT HISTORY DATES & ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology is a science dating from the 1800's. It is historic in nature and often the findings are more assumptions based on theory rather than repeatable testing to examine a hypothesis. For this reason, archaeologist's findings are often arbitrary and can vary. Take the city of Nineveh as an

The time scale in the My Homeschool Book of Centuries includes the following periods:	
BC	Before Christ
B.C.E	Before Common Era or Before Christian Era. These are the same as BC.
AD	Anno Domini (Latin for after Christ or In the Year of Our Lord).
C.E	Common Era is the same as AD it is just the non-religious version
Pre History	Before 3000BC (Early Civilisations in Mesopotamia)
Ancient History	3000BC to 600BC (The Greek Era)
Classical Era	600BC to 476AD (Fall of Rome)
Middle Ages	476AD to 1450AD (The Printing Press)
Early Modern Age	1450AD to 1750AD (Industrial Revolution)
Modern History	1750 to Present time
Note: Parenthesised events are the trigger to define the next era.	

example; for many years archaeologists claimed that it did not exist then it was discovered by Austen Henry Layard in 1847. Therefore, we recommend using a consistent source for dates. Possible options are:

- ◆ The Annals of World by James Ussher (Begins 4000BC using the Bible as a reference)
- ◆ Cassell's Chronology of World History by Hywel Williams (Secular history begins at 8000 BC)
- ◆ <https://humanhistorytimeline.com/>

Family History Timeline

100 YEARS OF FAMILY HISTORY

The family history chart is a place to record significant events the family consider important. Whilst it can be a family project, it is not a family tree.

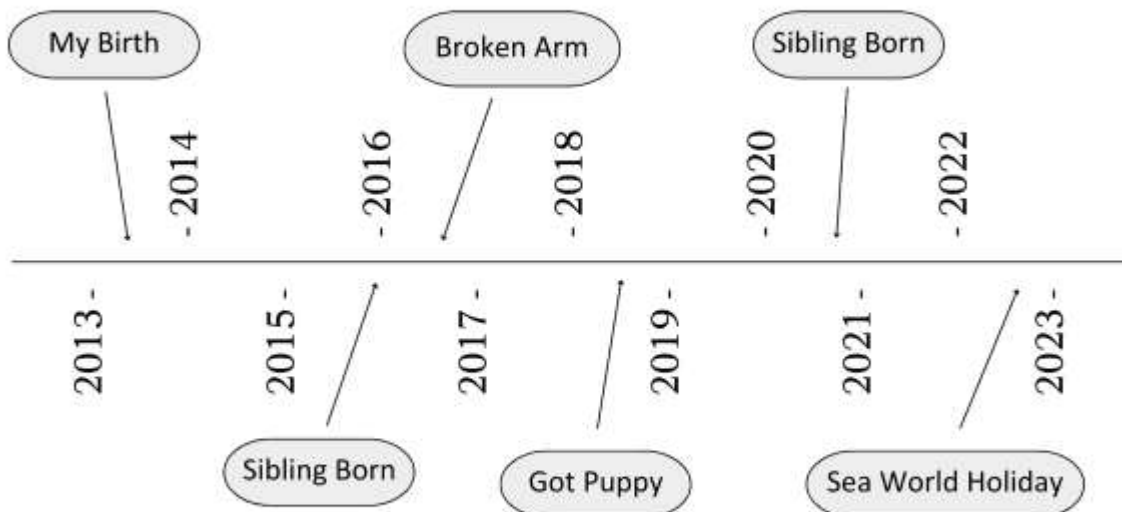
Here are some ideas of what you might like to include in your family history:

- ⇒ Family birthdates and death dates, such as those of siblings, parents, and grandparents. Make the entry short, recording the name of the person. For example, [name's] birthday.
- ⇒ Family holidays: mention the location. For example, ['Gold Coast holiday'].
- ⇒ Important family events such as getting a dog, moving house, or weddings.
- ⇒ Significant health events such as having an operation, breaking a limb, or getting glasses.
- ⇒ Local weather/nature events that impacted your location. For example, flood in town, bushfire nearby, or mouse plague.

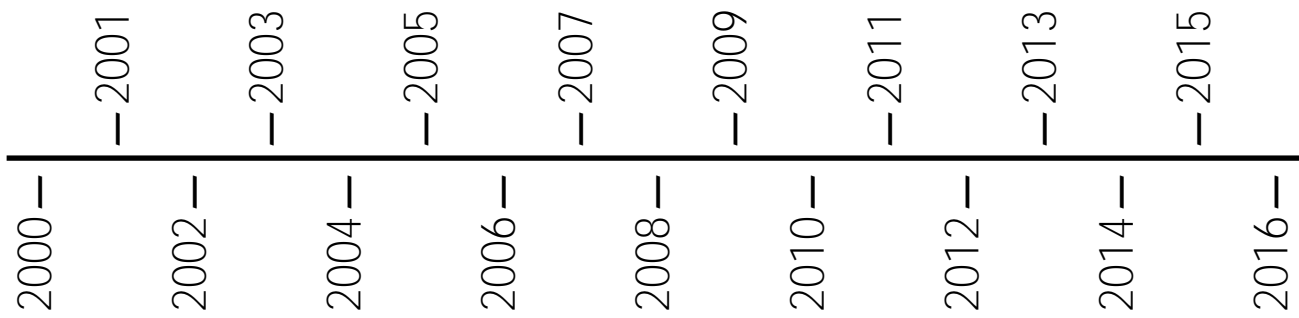
This is a linear chart that allows for more freedom marking in events that happen close together. Make an entry on the page and then draw a line to the relevant point on the timeline.

This project will be a work in progress and can be continued throughout the years.

EXAMPLE



Family History Timeline



100 Years of Family History



—2017

—2019

—2021

—2023

—2025

—2027

—2029

—2031

—2033

2018 —

2020 —

2022 —

2024 —

2026 —

2028 —

2030 —

2032 —

Table of Centuries & Maps

Here you record significant people in a century. This table acts as a quick reference. Only a name is required, and no dates are needed.

CALCULATING CENTURIES

It can be confusing when referring to specific centuries as there are two ways to calculate centuries. The method we have used here is to calculate a century from '01' to '100' in the year the new century begins. For example, the 1st Century begins with AD 1 and ends in 100AD. The 20th Century began in 1901AD and ended in 2000AD. We are currently living in the 21st Century.

SUGGESTED ABBREVIATIONS

b.	Born (date someone is born)
d.	Died (date someone died)
r.	Reigned (Use for kings, queens, presidents, prime ministers and other rulers)
c.	About that time. Circa is a word of Latin origin meaning 'approximately'.

EXAMPLE:

If you use an abbreviation you will solve the dilemma of people living in two centuries, for example the birth of Queen Elizabeth II (1926 AD) and her death was in (Death 2022).

3rd Century BC	Alexander the Great	d. Plato
1st Century AD	d. Jesus	Nero
20th Century AD	b. Elizabeth II	
21st Century AD	d. Elizabeth II	r. Donald Trump

MAPS

Four blackline World Maps have been provided. Use these to record name changes of places over the centuries.

Suggested map ideas for this section:

- ⇒ Ancient History Map—The Ptolemaic map is a 2nd century map showing the world as flat. It indicates the places that were known to exist at that time.
- ⇒ Medieval Maps—For example the world during the Roman Empire. You could also include religious and mythological elements. The Mappa Mundi is a great one to explore.
- ⇒ Navigation Charts —Follow the routes of different explorers and expeditions such as Lewis and Clarke, Captain Cook, Christopher Columbus or Bass and Flinders.
- ⇒ Migration, Colonisation and Imperial Maps—Track the expansion of people groups such as the Table of Nations depicted in the Bible after the flood of Noah, Viking expeditions, Polynesian expansion across the Pacific, and pre and post Colonisation maps.

Additional pages are provided to draw maps of cities, coastlines, or travel routes. You may also like to draw a map within a specific century. For example: tracking a battle during a wars, a specific exploration like Lewis and Clarke in Africa, Bass and Flinders around Australia, or the partition of India in 1947.

MAPS THROUGH THE AGES

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World Map Date: _____

Book of Centuries

TIME PERIOD DIVISIONS

There are two page spreads for each time period.

- ◆ Pre History is not dated and you will find there are various archaeological interpretations.
- ◆ 4000BC – 2000BC are set out in millennium (1000 years) format because there isn't a lot of recorded history for this period.
- ◆ From 1999BC – 1899AD history is set out in a century (100 years) format.

MAKING AN ENTRY

Your Book of Centuries can be filled out in two ways. The first is to list important dates for the events you learn about, and the second is to add illustrations of these occurrences. For example, when learning about the Australian bushrangers you may like to draw Ned Kelly's famous helmet. Symbols are also good for reluctant drawers.

ADDING DATES

You'll find dates in many books that you read, not just history books. Start filling in your dates as they are discovered in history, science, art, the Bible, a museum visits, or wherever you come across them in other parts of your learning journey.

Add the date in the appropriate column. Use abbreviations previously mentioned in the *Table of Centuries* (page 17). Sometimes, you may have more than one entry in a column so be succinct.

EXAMPLE ENTRY 5TH CENTURY AD

The Pre History period does not specify dates and you have more flexibility in presentation.

410	Visigoths sack Rome
415	
420	
425	
430	c. St Patrick Ireland r. Atilla the Hun

Some people like to theme these pages with titles such as The Ice Age, Bronze Age, Ancient Egypt, or Creation stories. It's up to you.

ADDING ILLUSTRATIONS

In each century, a space is provided to add illustrations to the period you are learning about. Adding illustrations to a Book of Centuries is meant to be a thoughtful pleasurable event. Students love their books. No artist is needed to write an intriguing book, but neatness and precision are. You may prefer to add quotations, short lists or even a map.

Originally called a Museum Notebook, the Book of Centuries was a place to sketch out items discovered whilst visiting a museum. Gertrude Bernau, the principal of girls school in London would often take her students to the British Museum and get them to make entries in their Museum Notebooks. She wrote an article for the Charlotte Mason publication *A Parent's Review* (Volume 34: 1923) about creating a Book of Centuries. Here is a summary of her ideas with some additional practical tips:

- ⇒ When adding illustrations use mainly black and white with occasional colour. Note: Using a monochrome colour scheme makes the book look homogenous. **Pencil sketches are best** because both sides of paper are used. Ink drawings (which were suggested by Gertrude) are better on thicker art paper and pasted into your book.
- ⇒ Illustrations found in books and symbols are often a good source of inspiration. [Online image searches can also be helpful].
- ⇒ When the subject is too difficult to sketch, photographs can be pasted in, but only seldom, as it makes the book excessively thick.
- ⇒ Since reading should be a lifelong interest, kids should wait until they can handle harder topics.
- ⇒ One page is a little space to represent a century so the most important events should be sketched and the page's design layout should be planned if possible.
- ⇒ Some children like to illustrate one topic throughout the book, such as clothing, flags, ships, weaponry, musical instruments, or ornaments of different centuries, in addition to the customary illustrations of each century's events. No two books will be alike!
- ⇒ An example page from the 9th century AD might include: a Danish battle-axe, byrnie, ship, helmet, ring-money, Saxon harp and ship, and King Alfred's jewel and silver penny.

To see examples and illustrations check out:

<https://myhomeschool.com/homeschooling/programs/book-of-centuries>

Pre History



Pre History



35th – 31st Century BC



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3500– 3001 BC

3500



3450



3400



3350



3300



3250



3200



3150



3100



3050



The Classical Era

The Classical Era, often dated from approximately 500BC to 476AD represents a pivotal period in human history characterised by remarkable advancements in culture, politics, philosophy, and technology. This era, which spans several centuries, saw the rise and fall of influential civilisations, the emergence of profound philosophical thought, and the development of enduring artistic and architectural masterpieces.

THE GRECO-ROMAN LEGACY

The Classical Era is often associated with the civilisations of ancient Greece and Rome, which made profound contributions to the world. In Greece, the 5th century BC marked the "Golden Age," with Athenian democracy flourishing under the leadership of figures like Pericles. The period gave birth to Greek philosophy, with luminaries like Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle laying the foundations for Western thought. These are the men Plutarch, the Ancient Greek historian, wrote about in his collection of biographies called *Parallel Lives*.

Additionally, the Greek city-states engaged in cultural achievements, producing timeless works of literature, such as the epics of Homer, and groundbreaking art and architecture exemplified by the Parthenon.

Rome, on the other hand, began as a republic and transitioned into an empire. The Roman Republic introduced the concept of checks and balances in government and the rule of law, ideals that continue to influence modern governance. Under the Pax Romana, a period of relative peace and stability, the Romans constructed an intricate road system, aqueducts, and monumental architecture like the Colosseum and the Pantheon. The Roman legal system, known as Roman Law, still forms the basis of many legal codes today. The decline of the Roman Empire in the 5th century AD marked the end of this classical period in Europe.

THE BIRTH AND DEATH OF JESUS

The birth and death of Jesus Christ holds profound historical significance within the Classical era. These events, occurring amidst the turbulent backdrop of the Roman Empire, marked the emergence of Christianity as a transformative religious and cultural force. Jesus' teachings, emphasising love, forgiveness, and spiritual redemption, resonated with diverse audiences across the Roman world, challenging the prevailing religious and social norms. His crucifixion under Pontius Pilate and the subsequent spread of Christianity throughout the Mediterranean and beyond altered the course of history, eventually leading to the adoption of Christianity as the state religion of the Roman Empire in the 4th century CE, profoundly influencing the subsequent development of Western civilisation and shaping the world for centuries to come.

The transition from BC (Before Christ) to AD (Anno Domini, which means "In the Year of Our Lord" in Latin) marks a pivotal point in history. It signifies the shift from dating events based on years before the estimated birth of Jesus Christ to dating events from his birth onward.

THE MAURYAN AND GUPTA EMPIRES IN INDIA

In India, the Classical Era witnessed the rise of two major empires: the Mauryan Empire and the Gupta Empire. The Mauryan Empire, under the rule of Emperor Ashoka, expanded across the Indian subcontinent and promoted Buddhism as a major religion. Ashoka's edicts, inscribed on pillars and rocks, are significant historical documents that promoted moral governance and tolerance.

The Gupta Empire, which emerged in the 4th century AD, is often referred to as India's "Golden Age." During this time, India made significant advancements in mathematics, particularly the concept of zero and the decimal system. Literature, including the famous works of Kalidasa, and art, notably the construction of the Ajanta and Ellora Caves, flourished. The Gupta era is remembered as a period of intellectual and cultural achievement.

ANCIENT CHINA AND THE QIN DYNASTY

Classical China, during the Zhou and Qin dynasties, contributed substantially to the era's intellectual and technological advancements. The Chinese philosopher Confucius promoted moral ethics and social harmony through his teachings. Legalism, another school of thought, emerged during this time, emphasising strict laws and centralised authority.

The Qin Dynasty, is particularly significant for unifying China under a single centralised government. This period witnessed the construction of the Great Wall of China, an iconic architectural marvel still standing today. It also marked the standardisation of weights, measures, and writing scripts.

THE CLASSICAL ERA BEYOND THE MEDITERRANEAN AND ASIA

While Greece, Rome, India, and China are often the focal points of the Classical Era, other civilisations and regions also played critical roles. In the Americas, the Maya civilisation in Mesoamerica and the Nazca culture in South America developed advanced societies with complex calendars, mathematics, and monumental architecture.

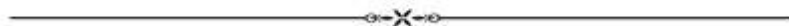
THE CLASSICAL ERA'S LEGACY

The Classical Era stands as a testament to human ingenuity and cultural achievement. It was a period of enlightenment, innovation, and the creation of enduring legacies in politics, philosophy, science, art, and architecture. The contributions of Greece, Rome, India, and China, among others, continue to influence and shape our modern world, making the Classical Era a pivotal chapter in the narrative of human history.

4th Century AD



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301 - 400 AD



The Middle Ages

The Middle Ages, often referred to as the Medieval Period, spanned roughly from the 5th to the 15th century in Europe. This thousand year period of history is a time of turbulence, triumphs and transformations. This period begins in the aftermath of the Roman Empire's collapse, around the 5th century, where Europe's destiny hung in the balance.

As you fill your *My Homeschool Book of Centuries* you will encounter key dates and players. Here is a brief summary of this period.

THE DAWN OF THE DARK AGES

As the Roman Empire crumbled, Europe plunged into chaos. The once-mighty Roman legions retreated, leaving a power vacuum. Barbarian tribes like the Visigoths, Vandals, and Ostrogoths carved out their kingdoms from the ruins. It was a time of tumultuous migrations and shifting borders.

THE RISE OF CHARLEMAGNE AND THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH

In the heart of this turmoil emerged a remarkable figure, Charlemagne. Charlemagne, crowned as the Holy Roman Emperor in the 8th century, sought to restore order and unity to Western Europe. He ushered in the Carolingian Renaissance, a brief revival of art, culture, and learning.

The Roman Catholic Church became a towering institution, offering spiritual solace and guidance. Monasteries became beacons of knowledge and culture, where monks meticulously copied and preserved ancient manuscripts.

FEUDALISM AND THE MANOR

The feudal system, a defining feature of the Middle Ages, structured society into a hierarchy. At the apex stood the king, followed by nobles, knights, and peasants. In exchange for protection, peasants worked the land and paid tribute to their lords. The manorial system, which operated alongside feudalism, revolved around self-sustaining agricultural communities.

THE CHURCH'S INFLUENCE

The Pope wielded significant political and spiritual power, shaping the destiny of kings and kingdoms. The Catholic Church codified canon law, its own legal system, and fostered intellectual inquiry through scholasticism. The Church also initiated the Crusades, a series of holy wars aimed at recapturing Jerusalem from Muslim control.

Medieval Europe left a lasting legacy in the realm of art and architecture. The soaring cathedrals, characterised by Gothic architecture's pointed arches and ribbed vaults, reflected the people's profound religious devotion. Illuminated manuscripts, epic poems, and intricate paintings adorned

this era.

RENAISSANCE AND TRANSITION

Despite the challenges of the Middle Ages, there were sparks of innovation. Scholars like Avicenna and Roger Bacon made strides in medicine and natural philosophy. Universities emerged, paving the way for the Renaissance, a cultural and intellectual reawakening.

As the Middle Ages drew to a close, Europe faced formidable trials. The Black Death, a devastating plague, and ravaged populations brought misery. The Hundred Years' War between England and France, spanning the 14th and 15th centuries, reshaped the political landscape.

THE ROAD TO MODERNITY

The late Middle Ages saw the beginnings of a transformation. Feudalism waned as centralised monarchies and urban centres gained prominence. The Renaissance blossomed, marking a resurgence in art, science, and literature. It was a harbinger of the modern world.

ASIAN EMPIRES AND RELIGION

Asia during the Middle Ages was a diverse and vibrant continent marked by the rise of influential empires and the exchange of culture and knowledge along the Silk Road. China's Tang Dynasty flourished, fostering art and innovation, while the Byzantine Empire acted as a bridge between Europe and Asia. South Asia saw the Chola Dynasty's maritime influence and the spread of Buddhism to Southeast Asia. Central Asia played a crucial role as a trade crossroads, and the Islamic Caliphates in Baghdad advanced various fields of knowledge.

Japan during the Middle Ages, which corresponds to the period between the 12th and 16th centuries, is often referred to as the "Feudal Era" in Japanese history. This era was marked by the dominance of the samurai warrior class, the rise of powerful feudal lords, and significant cultural developments.

THE SOUTH PACIFIC

South Pacific exploration was marked by the navigational prowess of Polynesian seafarers who undertook incredible journeys across vast ocean expanses. These intrepid explorers, using advanced navigational techniques, explored and settled islands across the South Pacific, such as Hawaii, New Zealand, and Easter Island.

THE LEGACY OF THE MIDDLE AGES

The Middle Ages, despite its darkness and challenges, left an indelible mark on Western civilisation. It was a period of growth, decline, and rebirth. From the ashes of the Roman Empire, Europe forged new identities and laid the foundations for the modern era. The Middle Ages, with all its complexity and contradictions, remains a captivating chapter in the grand story of human history.

15th Century AD



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1401 - 1500 AD

