

Social Studies Skills

Analysis

Critical Thinking

Civic Participation

Study

Interpreting Time Lines

Define the Skill

Knowing the sequence, or order, in which historical events took place is important to understanding these events. Time lines visually display the sequence of events during a particular period of time. They also let you easily see time spans between events, such as how long after one event a related event took place—and what events occurred in between. In addition, comparing time lines for different places makes relationships between distant events easier to identify and understand.

Learn the Skill

Follow these guidelines to read, interpret, and compare time lines.

- 1 Determine each time line's framework. Note the years it covers and the periods of time into which it is divided. Be aware that a pair of time lines may not have the same framework.

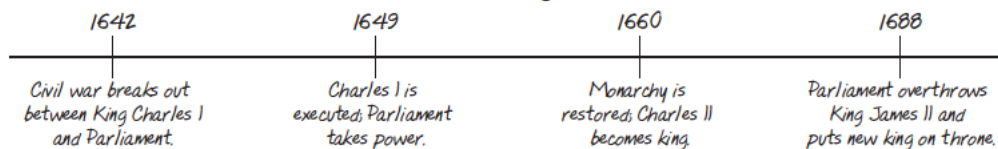
- 2 Study the order of events on each time line. Note the length of time between events. Compare what was taking place on different time lines around the same time period.
- 3 Look for relationships between events. Pay particular attention to how an event on one time line might relate to an event on another.

Practice the Skill

Interpret the time lines below to answer the following questions.

1. What is each time line's framework?
2. How long was England without a king?
3. What event in England allowed the colonists to get rid of the Dominion of New England in 1689?
4. Massachusetts's independence had troubled English officials for many years. What do the time lines suggest about why this colony was allowed to remain independent until 1686?

Events in England



Events in the Colonies

