

A timeline is one way of depicting events of the past. The timeline above shows you at a glance a few major events that occurred over the past 1 million years. Timelines are, therefore, useful tools for the study of history. But then, what is history?

## What is HISTORY

History is the study of our past. History is about what people did and how they lived in the past; about their economy, occupations and their eating habits; about their

rulers and the battles they fought. History also studies how past events have affected the lives of the people. It tries to understand and explain events of the past by examining a variety of related factors. In history, we learn how human beings have interacted with the elements of nature, to create rich cultures and civilisation; and how at times nature, and sometimes humans themselves, have destroyed all that people have created.

## WHY DO WE LEARN HISTORY

You might have heard children say - 'why should we learn about long dead kings and their battles?' But history is not only about kings and battles.

We learn history for many reasons

- History teaches us to carefully examine and question facts before accepting them as the truth.
- History educates us. We can learn from mistakes made in the past.