I have no idea if my enthusiasm is showing yet, but if you have had any doubt, this is where my enthusiasm WILL have to show! I absolutely LOVE our Timeline Notebooks that we have created over the years! Very few things seem to pull all of life together, but timelines pull all of our life and all of our studies together and into perspective! Timelines are great for giving an overview of history, but they are much more indispensable. They show continuity and interrelation of History. With timelines all of the subjects we study weave together for one great big picture.

If you are not sold yet, think about how versatile a Timeline Notebook is. ANYONE can use them, regardless of curriculum being used...or difficulty normally presented in documenting a study...or age, interest, or abilities of the student.

Ohhhh, and think of what a great teacher a timeline becomes. Those difficult dates become easy to review and remember. Those chains of events finally make sense. The children see real people and real events in perspective. Not only do they begin to treasure the past, but they are encouraged to treasure TODAY and TODAY'S EVENTS!

Soooo, why a notebook for a timeline?? Ohhhh, space (that commodity more precious than gold to the homeschool mom) is saved best by timelines being kept in a notebook. Not to mention, if the timeline is kept in a notebook, it can go ANYWHERE you go!

What Goes Inside a Timeline Notebook...

Ready? What is included? How do ya do it? The good news is that your imagination is the only limit! Anything goes inside a timeline:

Dates...
  Pictures and drawings of people...
  Explorations...
  Discoveries...
Art prints...
  Books written...
    Inventions...
      Religious events...
        Church history...
          Battles...
            Wars...

Key events such as...
  Elections
    Battles
  Births
    Deaths
  Marriages
    Settlements such as Plymouth

You can also include clippings of...
  Maps...
    Weapons...
      Modes of travel...
        Clothing...
          Jewelry...
            Head-dresses...
              Shoes...
                Dishes...

States and Capitals...
  Musical instruments...
    Current events...
      Food...
        Family history...
          Samples of songs...
            Poems...
              Art prints
                Narrations

Quotes...
  Covers of books written by authors of the period...
    Covers of books about the period being studied...
      ON AND ON!
What You Need To Begin...

All you need to make your own are using these reproducibles is a 3-ring binder and plastic sheet protectors. (Of course, if you would like the forms, you can order ready-to-use forms through our ministry. Ours are 110lb Cardstock.)

Begin With ONE Notebook Per Child...

Yep! It is this easy! Begin with just ONE notebook per child. You are welcome to reproduce these originals FOR YOUR OWN FAMILY. Please honor our work by not sharing with a friend without our permission. (this book is copyrighted.)

Our favorite notebooks are the 3-ring vinyl notebooks that have the clear pockets on the outside so the children can design their own covers. We usually choose the white notebooks (either 2 or 3 inches thick notebooks) and fill it full of plastic sheet protectors. Then, all our children have to do is label the dates on their sheets, slip the pages in a plastic sheet protector...then, add their work each day. (Another option if you were interested in possibly changing your forms later or changing figures around is to laminate the pages and the figures. Then you could use double-sided tape and change them around at any time you would like. Of course, this is a bit more expensive, but I would think it would be worth the expense just to have the convenience of changing the pages around. If you were to laminate the pages, I would suggest dating all of them first. We have dating suggestions below.)

Simply order your pages to fit your needs. We have purposely included extra pages JUST IN CASE there is a mistake. (Yes, I am a mother too!) We have also included all of the dividers (in bright cardstock) that we use and blank reproducibles that we use with our Timeline Notebooks. (Special Note: We have our pages printed for our kits with the pages labeled at the top and the rest of the page blank. I found that all of the pages I had used in the past had lines on them. They did not work for us because we had so many figures, copies of art prints and books, and other things that we wanted on our pages that a lot of printed information was too much on the page. Now, we include that information in our History Notebooks or in our Narration Notebooks. Some of our History Notebooks for time periods now include a Time Line for that period in the front of our Notebook. With those Timelines, we usually include two pages per year (6 months for each page). Then we can have more space for information and details. Actually, if your child is “into” a period like Matthew is the Civil War, you could easily have a page per month and still have more information than room. I would recommend keeping that much detail on a separate Timeline rather than in your overall History Timeline Notebook. That is one reason that we published our History Timeline Notebook without dates...so it would have flexibility for those that simply devour History.)

We begin at Creation with a page for events beginning with Scripture. We use 50 years for each page, making the two page spread cover an entire century, until we get to 1400 AD. At that point each page...
cover 25 years, with the two-page spread covering 50 years, until we get to 1700 AD. At that point, we only cover 25 years per two-page spread up until present day.

The order of our Timeline Notebooks is as follows...
1. Cover designed by our children, slid into the front of the notebook
2. B.C. Page
3. Creation Page
4. Pages from 4000 B.C. up to 1 B.C.
5. B.C. Page
6. Life of Christ
7. A.D. Page
8. Pages from 1 A.D. up to present
9. My Family Tree
10. My Life
11. Maps
12. Narrations
13. Diagrams
14. My Keepsakes

Our pages are designed on 110lb. white cardstock, so they will be most durable. The cardstock is also better for adding glue, paint, or pressed specimens. We use a 110lb. cardstock in our children's favorite colors for dividing pages, such as at the beginning of the notebook, between BC and AD, and for extra sections such as maps, family tree, Narrations, articles, books read, diagrams...

All of our pages are slid into plastic sheet protectors and kept in 3-ring binders. We use a variety of figures for placing on our timelines. We began our first timeline when using KONOS unit studies. We LOVE those figures. They are laminated, so they seem to last FOREVER! We have also found other great resources with figures that work nicely in our notebooks such as Lessons from History, Geography Matters, Old Encyclopedias, Old books and textbooks, library books (just make copies... we reduce ours to fit our timelines more nicely), computer encyclopedias, Websites, ETC! Be on the lookout!

Quick Tips for Making and Using Your Timeline Notebook...
1. Use large 3-ring binders. They are expandable...and believe it or not, you will NEED to expand in no time at all!
2. Work as a family! YOU make one too! You will LOVE it!
3. Use while you read and study through every subject! Use as you study the Bible, travel, research! Mark authors, events, people! At the most bring your notebooks out each week to add new entries. We copy pictures, reducing them to a tiny size that is perfect for our pages.
4. **Bring in YOUR style!** EVERY notebook WILL look different! Soooo, make it work for you! We glue in pictures, write a bit about the person or event, etc.

5. **Try a little Scrapbooking!** You may want to add “frames” of bright colors behind the pictures of the people...or cut out the pictures with paper-edgers...or use neat pens for special emphasis...etc.: Once you begin, you WILL be hooked!

6. **Have a special spot for your children to keep their binders.** If you want your children to use any of their notebooks, especially their *Timeline Notebook*, they need to have easy access to the notebooks and supplies. Plus, IF there is a spot to keep their notebooks, it will be easier to keep the notebook nice and neat. Ohhhh, and if there is a special spot for the notebooks, the children can rest assured that their hard work will be safe from younger siblings and pets.

7. **Oh...Don't sweat the divisions!** There will always be an exception. Some time periods may actually become such a delight to study that your family needs to develop an entire notebook just for that study. Don’t worry...just GO for it!

### More Ideas...

Need some other ideas to fit your needs? There are as many variations for timeline notebooks as there are people! Here are some to consider...

- “My Country Timeline”
- “My State History Timeline”
- *(Unit Study)* Timeline...Space Exploration, Westward Expansion, The Vikings, Composers, American Artists...
- *(Person)* Timeline...Robert E. Lee, Thomas Edison...
- *(Time Period)* Timeline...American Revolution, Egyptian, Greek, Romans, Middle Ages...
- “My Family Timeline”
- “Famous Men of...” Civil War, American Revolution...
- “Battles of...” The American Revolution, The Civil War, World War I, World War II, The Vietnam War, Desert Storm...

Have fun! Make LOTS of great memories!

Cindy

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*Excerpted From Make Your Own History Timeline!*