Time on a Ticket

How museums name and organize historical time

6.H.13 "Define and use the terms decade, century, and millennium, and compare alternative ways that historical periods and eras are designated by identifying the organizing principles upon which each is based."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline how long a decade, a century, and a millennium last. Circle one example each of a numbered period, a calendar era, and a period named for a shared feature.

Two Ways to Label a Train Ticket

1. At a rail museum, two labels can tell different stories about the same train ticket. One label gives its date, while another places it in an era shaped by technology. To read either label, start with time units. A decade lasts ten years. A named decade, such as the 1910s, runs from 1910 through 1919. A century lasts 100 years, and a millennium lasts 1,000 years. These units measure length, but a label like "twentieth century" also tells where a year falls in a numbered sequence.

2. Numbered centuries and millennia do not begin with a year zero in the traditional calendar. The first century CE runs from year 1 through year 100; the second begins with 101. The first millennium CE runs from year 1 through year 1000; the second begins with 1001. For example, a ticket dated 1912 belongs to the twentieth century and the second millennium CE. To find a numbered period, count from year 1 instead of assuming that a new century or millennium begins whenever the first digits of a date change.

3. Some museum labels organize time by a shared feature instead of a fixed number of years. The Age of Steam names a period when steam power played a major role in travel and industry. Its start and end can vary by place and by historian. Other labels use the calendar itself: CE places years within the Common Era, while BCE marks years before it. A ticket labeled 1864 CE therefore has a calendar date, but a curator might also group it with objects from the Age of Steam.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. A ticket is dated 1974 CE. Name its decade, numbered century, and numbered millennium.

2. Would tickets from 1998 CE and 2003 CE belong to the same numbered millennium? Name each millennium and explain.

3. A curator groups 1936 tickets as either "1930s" or "Air Travel Era," a period when airplanes changed travel. What organizing principle does each label use?

4. One label reads "350 BCE." Another reads "River Trade Era," meaning a time when rivers were important trade routes. How do these labels organize time differently?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a year from 2010 through 2019 and name its decade, numbered century, and numbered millennium. In three or four sentences, invent a name for a historical era that could include that year, then explain how your invented era and the numbered periods organize time differently.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 6 · 6.H.13

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline how long a decade, a century, and a millennium last. Circle one example each of a numbered period, a calendar era, and a period named for a shared feature. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A ticket is dated 1974 CE. Name its decade, numbered century, and numbered millennium.	**The 1970s, the twentieth century, and the second millennium CE.**
2	Would tickets from 1998 CE and 2003 CE belong to the same numbered millennium? Name each millennium and explain.	**No. 1998 is in the second millennium CE, and 2003 is in the third. The second millennium ends with 2000.**
3	A curator groups 1936 tickets as either "1930s" or "Air Travel Era," a period when airplanes changed travel. What organizing principle does each label use?	**"1930s" groups years into a ten-year calendar period. "Air Travel Era" groups time by a shared feature, the importance of airplanes to travel.**
4	One label reads "350 BCE." Another reads "River Trade Era," meaning a time when rivers were important trade routes. How do these labels organize time differently?	**BCE places a year before the Common Era on a calendar. "River Trade Era" names a period for a shared activity.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I chose 2015, which falls in the 2010s, the twenty-first century, and the third millennium CE. I would call its period the Smartphone Era because smartphones were widely used to share news and messages. The numbered labels group years by fixed calendar units, but my era name groups years by a shared technology.

Accept any year from 2010 through 2019 with the 2010s, twenty-first century, and third millennium CE. The invented era should fit the chosen year and be based on an identifiable shared feature rather than a fixed number of years.