

Time Clue Detectives

Sort statements by the kind of chronology clue they use.

8.29.B “analyze information by applying absolute and relative chronology through sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

EXACT TIME

Absolute chronology gives a specific date, year, or time. It tells exactly when an event happened.

The first Earth Day took place on April 22, 1970.

ORDER CLUE

Relative chronology tells whether something happened before, after, earlier, or later than something else. It does not need an exact date.

People began using smartphones after cell phones became common.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle the category for each statement, then choose two items and explain which time clues helped you sort them.

- | | | | |
|----|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | The United States declared independence on July 4, 1776. | ABSOLUTE | RELATIVE |
| 2. | The first modern Olympic Games opened in Athens in 1896. | ABSOLUTE | RELATIVE |
| 3. | The Great Depression began before the United States entered World War II. | ABSOLUTE | RELATIVE |
| 4. | The United Nations was founded on October 24, 1945. | ABSOLUTE | RELATIVE |
| 5. | After the Civil War ended, the United States added the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. | ABSOLUTE | RELATIVE |
| 6. | California became a state later than Texas. | ABSOLUTE | RELATIVE |
| 7. | Apollo 11 astronauts first walked on the Moon on July 20, 1969. | ABSOLUTE | RELATIVE |
| 8. | India gained independence from Britain in 1947. | ABSOLUTE | RELATIVE |

2

PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3

MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new statement using absolute chronology and one new statement using relative chronology.

ABSOLUTE _____

RELATIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this statement using relative chronology instead of an exact date: "The Titanic sank on April 15, 1912."
Use another event as an order clue.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The United States declared independence on July 4, 1776.	ABSOLUTE	It gives the exact date, July 4, 1776.
2	The first modern Olympic Games opened in Athens in 1896.	ABSOLUTE	It gives a specific year, 1896.
3	The Great Depression began before the United States entered World War II.	RELATIVE	It uses before to show the order of events without giving a date.
4	The United Nations was founded on October 24, 1945.	ABSOLUTE	It gives the exact date, October 24, 1945.
5	After the Civil War ended, the United States added the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.	RELATIVE	It uses after to show sequence without an exact date.
6	California became a state later than Texas.	RELATIVE	It uses later than to compare the order of events.
7	Apollo 11 astronauts first walked on the Moon on July 20, 1969.	ABSOLUTE	It gives the exact date, July 20, 1969.
8	India gained independence from Britain in 1947.	ABSOLUTE	It gives a specific year, 1947.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **ABSOLUTE:** The Panama Canal opened on August 15, 1914.
- **RELATIVE:** The printing press spread through Europe before newspapers became widely available.

Challenge: The Titanic sank before World War I began.

For Part 2, students should identify an exact date or year for ABSOLUTE items and an order word, such as before, after, or later, for RELATIVE items. Accept accurate student-created statements that clearly match the chosen category.