World Events Timeline

As the world spins on its axis, we hang on for the ride of our lives. All of us live within the context of a much greater picture. We have survived a timeline of several decades that include major national and world events. Many of them have given context to our lives. Wars have disrupted our families. Economic devastation has torn some of us apart. Earthquakes, floods and tornadoes have taken their toll. There would also be moments of celebration - technological innovation, victory in sports, changes in government, and the coming of a new year. Each can play havoc on our best-laid plans. Each adds another twist to the day-to-day saga we call life.

There is a story for every year we live. It begins the year you were born and continues to present time. It will reach into your future. You can place your own life story events within this larger framework.

Many life stories are tempered by the Great Depression years. Others are colored by the turbulent cultural changes of the 1960s. As we write our themes we can bring them to life by adding the context of the times they were experienced.

Look at the following world events timeline. You will find that your history is also that of the world we live in.

World Events 1900 – 2015

1900 - 1910

- 1900 Kodak introduces \$1 Brownie camera
- 1901 Marconi sends radio broadcast over ocean
- 1902 Boer War ends
- 1903 Wright Brothers 1st Flight
- 1904 Work starts on Panama Canal
- 1905 Theory of Relativity published
- 1906 San Francisco earthquake
- 1907 First electric washing machine
- 1908 Ford's Model-T introduced
- 1909 Plastic invented
- 1910 Hailey's Comet appears

1911 - 1920

- 1911 Mona Lisa stolen
- 1912 Titanic sinks

- 1913 First crossword puzzle
- 1914 WW1 begins//First traffic light
- 1915 Armenian genocide
- 1916 First self-serve grocery store opens in USA
- 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia
- 1918 Czar Nicholas and family assassinated//WW1 ends
- 1919 Treaty of Versailles
- 1920 League of Nations established

1921-1930

- 1921 Lie Detector invented
- 1922 Insulin discovered
- 1923 Time Magazine founded
- 1924 First Winter Olympic Games
- 1925 Flapper dresses in style
- 1926 Robert Goddard fires his first liquid-fuel rocket

- 1927 The Jazz Singer (First Talkie film)
- 1928 Bubblegum invented
- 1929 Stock Market Crash/Car radio invented
- 1930 Pluto discovered

1931-1940

- 1931 Empire State Building completed
- 1932 Air Conditioning invented
- 1933 Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany//FDR launches New Deal
- 1934 The Dust Bowl//Monopoly created//Cheeseburger created
- 1935 AA founded
- 1936 Spanish Civil War begins Berlin Summer Olympics
- 1937 Hindenburgh Disaster
- 1938 Hitler annexes Austria
- 1939 Spanish Civil War ends//WW2 begins//Helicopter invented
- 1940 Battle of Britain//Trotsky assassinated

1941-1950

- 1941 Pearl Harbour//Jeep invented
- 1942 T-shirt introduced//Anne Frank goes into hiding
- 1943 Warsaw Ghetto uprising
- 1944 Ballpoint pens go on sale//D-Day
- 1945 WW2 ends//First computer (ENIAC) built//UN founded
- 1946 Bikinis introduced//Nuremburg Trials//Iron Curtain speech
- 1947 Dead Sea Scrolls discovered//Polaroid Camera invented
- 1948 Berlin Airlift//Gandhi assassinated//Israel founded
- 1949 NATO established//China becomes Communist

1950 Korean War begins//First Peanuts cartoon//First modern credit card introduced

1951-1960

- 1951 UNIVAC installed (World's first computer)//First colour TV
- 1952 Car seat belts introduced// Elizabeth becomes Queen
- 1953 Mt Everest climbed for first time//DNA discovered//Stalin dies//First Playboy magazine
- 1954 First atomic submarine launched//Report says cigarettes cause cancer
- 1955 Disneyland opens//Rosa Parks refuses to give up her bus seat
- 1956 Suez Crisis//Elvis on TV Rock 'n' Roll era begins//Hungarian Revolution//TV Remote Control invented
- 1957 Space Age begins
- 1958 Mao Zedong launches "Great Leap Forward"//Hula Hoops become popular
- 1959 Castro becomes dictator of Cuba
- 1960 Lasers invented

1961-1970

- 1961 Berlin Wall//Russian first in space
- 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis
- 1963 JFK Assassinated
- 1964 Beatles on Ed Sullivan
- 1965 USA sends troops to Vietnam
- 1966 Star Trek series airs//Chinese Cultural Revolution begins
- 1967 Centennial//Summer of Love//Six Day War
- 1968 Martin Luther King assassinated//RFK assassinated//Tet Offensive in Vietnam//Prague Spring

- 1969 First moon landing//Woodstock// Sesame Street first airs
- 1970 Apollo 13//Kent State shootings//Beatles break up//Computer floppy disks introduced

1971-1980

- 1971 VCR introduced
- 1972 Nixon visits China//Munich Olympics
- 1973 Yom Kippur War
- 1974 Watergate Nixon resigns
- 1975 USA pulls out of Vietnam
- 1976 Montreal Olympics
- 1977 Elvis Presley dies//Mini-series Roots airs//Star Wars movie released
- 1978 First Test-Tube baby born//John Paul 11 becomes Pope
- 1979 USSR invades Afghanistan Three Mile Island nuclear incident//Iran Hostage begins
- 1980 Moscow Olympics

1981-1990

- 1981 Iran Hostage ends IBM markets first Personal Computer
- 1982 Falkland Islands invaded by Britain//Michael Jackson releases Thriller LP
- 1983 Cabbage Patch dolls become popular//US Embassy in Beirut bombed
- 1984 First Macintosh computer//Indira Gandhi assassinated//Bhopal poison gas leak
- 1985 Famine in Ethiopia//New Coke hits market//Titanic found
- 1986 Challenger Shuttle exploded upon takeoff//Chernobyl accident

- 1987 DNA first used to convict criminals//Black Monday on NY Stock Exchange
- 1988 Pan Am Flight 103 bombed over Lockerbie//U.S. shoots down Iranian airliner
- 1989 Tiananmen Square//Berlin Wall falls//Exxon Valdez spills millions of gallons of oil
- 1990 Lech Walesa becomes first President of Poland//Mandela freed

1991-2000

- 1991 Operation Desert Storm in Persian Gulf//Collapse of the USSR
- 1992 Official end of the Cold War// Riots in L.A. after Rodney King verdict
- 1993 Cult Compound in Waco, Texas raided//World Trade Center bombed//Use of the Internet grows exponentially
- 1994 Channel Tunnel opens//O.J. Simpson arrested for double murder//Rwandan genocide
- 1995 Oklahoma City bombing//Yitzhak Rabin assassinated
- 1996 Mad Cow disease hits Britain//Unabomber arrested
- 1997 Princess Diana dies in car crash//Hong Kong returned to China//Scientists clone sheep
- 1998 India and Pakistan both test nuclear weapons//Viagra on the market//Titanic becomes most successful movie ever
- 1999 Euro becomes new European currency//Fear of Y2K Bug//JFK Jr. dies in plane accident//NATO attacks Serbia
- 2000 USS Cole bombed//Unclear winner in US Presidential

election//Mapping the human genome//Concorde crashes near Paris killing 113

2001-2010

- 2001 9/11 in USA//Anthrax scare//Taliban regime in Afghanistan collapses
- 2002 Terrorist bomb in Bali kills hundreds//Chechen rebels take 763 hostages in Moscow theatre – 116 killed
- 2003 Columbia Shuttle explosion Iraqi War begins
- 2004 Indonesian Tsunami//Spain rocked by terrorist attacks, killing more than 200//Chechen terrorists take about 1,200 schoolchildren and others hostage in Russia; 340 people die//George W Bush re-elected President
- 2005 Hurricane Katrina//Pope John Paul 2 dies//London hit by terrorist bombings, killing 52
- 2006 Saddam Hussein is convicted and hanged in Baghdad
- 2007 Gordon Brown replaces Tony Blair as the prime minister of Great Britain//The U.S. begins its "surge" of troops to Iraq.
- 2008 Cuban president Fidel Castro,

permanently steps down after 49 years in power. Obama elected US President

- 2009 US Airways Flight 1549 is forced to land in the Hudson River//Michael Jackson dies
- 2010 Massive 7.0 earthquake hits Haiti with death toll over 200,000 Explosion on a BP oil-drilling rig off the coast of Louisiana kills 11 people. Massive oil spill ensues.

2011-Current

- 2011 Japan 9.0 magnitude earthquake Arab Spring//Osama bin Laden killed
- 2012 London Olympic Games//Hurricane Sandy//Encyclopædia Britannica ends its print edition//President Obama re-elected
- 2013 Pope Benedict XVI resigns Nelson Mandela dies
- 2014 Winter Olympics held in Sochi, Russia. Crisis in the Ukraine. FIFA World Cup in Brazil.
- 2015 Lithuania establishes the euro as its official currency Massacres continue in Nigeria by the Boko Haram group Apple releases the iWatch

Many of these are international events that made news hi-lights. Others document moments in our technological and social evolution. Still others represent economic transformation. All of them can be placed against your own life story timeline. Were you born in 1948? The Berlin Airlift began that summer. Where were you on November 22, 1963 when President Kennedy was assassinated? Did you see The Beatles during their mid-60s tours of the United States? The Iran Hostage incident began in 1979. Did it have ramifications in your own life? The Cabbage Patch doll became a sensation in 1983. Did you ever own one? Where were you living when the Berlin Wall fell in 1989? Did you have your own family then? Where did you work? In 1997 Princess Dianna was killed. Do you remember who you were with when you heard the news? We know all about September 11, 2001. We remember where we were and how we felt when the news came through. Disbelief, anger, fear. Did you know someone who perished that morning? How

did 9/11 change you? In 2012 President Obama won his second term. Were you excited or disappointed? Why?

We all own a share of history. Part of it is for us. When we write our life stories, they become alive with our history.