



FEZANA Age-Appropriate Lesson Plan

Subject Category (circle one): Iranian Religion/Ceremony **History** Prayer Gathas
Comparative Religion Shahnameh

Age Group (circle one): PreK-k Grades 1-3 Grades 4-5 **Grades 6-8** **Grades 9-12**

Lesson #2

Subject of the Lesson: Introduction to History

Material for the teacher:

Lesson Objective: To understand the significance of time and sequence of historical events and to calculate the dates in relation to the present.

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Introduction: Teacher shares: The Persian Empire is one of the oldest civilizations in history dating back to 2000 B.C. What does 2000 B.C. mean?

Teacher explains:

Our ancestors come from a place of origin and share a common culture. This culture gets passed down from generation to generation. For thousands of years, the Persian culture has been passed down and continues to evolve. In today's lesson, we are going to focus on events that took place in the distant past.

Historical dates after the birth of Christ are classified as AD; short for the Latin phrase Anno Domini ("in the year of our Lord"). The term "B.C." is short for "Before Christ".

The references AD and BC are sometimes replaced by CE and BCE: Common Era and Before the Common Era.

Teacher explains:

To better understand dates in history and make sense of them, we are going to calculate a few dates to determine the precise number of years ago an event took place.

Teacher challenges students in groups to calculate the years, 1 AD and 1 BC. Few minutes later take up the answers to evaluate the results.



Teacher shares:

To calculate a date in BC, you must add the present year to the BC years.

$$BC + \textit{present year} = \textit{\# years ago}$$

To calculate a date in AD, you must start with the present year and subtract the given AD years

$$\textit{present year} - AD = \textit{\# years ago}$$

Teacher writes the following BC, CE, AD years on the board and challenges students to calculate the random years using the above formulas.

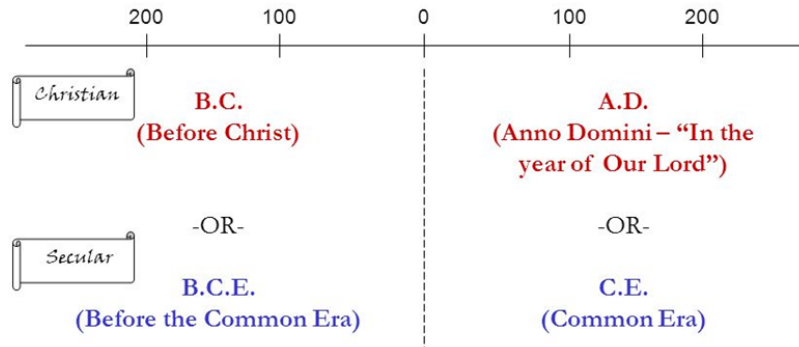
- 550 BC
- 7000 BC
- 651 CE
- 579 AD

The Origin of B.C. & A.D.

- The idea of counting years has been around for as long as we have written records, but the idea of everyone counting years the same way is relatively new.
- Today the international standard is to designate years based on the year Jesus was born — the "A.D." and "B.C." system. "**A.D.**" stands for *anno domini*, Latin for "in the year of the lord," and refers specifically to the birth of Jesus Christ. "**B.C.**" stands for "before Christ. "
- Many publications use "**C.E.**," or "Common Era," and "**B.C.E.**," or "Before Common Era."

See Hand Out below. The handout can be used as is. Or teachers can ask students to calculate the dates and then guess how they are related to Zoroastrian History. The teacher can then do a "reveal" on the screen/board for students after they have calculated the years.

Historical Dating



Calculate the following dates that are important in Persian history.

Date	How many years ago?	Significant Events
628 B.C.E.		Zarathushtra was born in year 628 B.C.E.
600 B.C.E.		Zoroastrianism, a monotheistic religion of ancient Persia founded by Zarathushtra in 6 th century B.C.E.
539 B.C.E.		In 539 B.C.E. the Persian army under Cyrus the Great command defeated the Neo-Babylonian Empire under Nabonidus in the Battle of Opis during the Persian invasion of Mesopotamia.
480 B.C.E.		Xerxes was a powerful Achaemenid king who invaded Greece in 480 B.C.E.
654 A.D.		The fall of Sassanid Empire of Persia.

Sources: Google, Encyclopedia Iranica, Encyclopedia Britannica

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