

Walk through TIME

What you need:

- A 46-foot length of wall or an open space where you can set up the walk as a spiral
- A 46-foot length of string or mural paper
- Sheets of paper for marking dates, titles, and events along your time line if you use string
- Crayons or markers for marking dates, titles, and events
- Photocopies of pictures of life forms and/or geological events to place on your time line
- A geological time line of earth's history showing eons, eras, and periods (Enchanted Learning has a good one with lots of detail at www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/Geologictime.html)

What you do:

- Determine where your time line will be—along a wall, or in a spiral laid out on an open floor. Choose mural paper or string with attached signs based on your location.
- Mark the geological eons, eras, and periods on your time line, using a scale of 1 foot for 100,000,000 years. If you're using spiraling string, attach sheets of paper along either side with tape, marking segments of time and corresponding detail. Begin the time line in the center of the spiral to suggest that time will continue on at the outside end.
- Add whatever level of detail you wish about events during each segment of time. **NOTE:** You may want to add an expanded-scale time line section at the end, to show more detail about human development and dramatize further our late arrival on the scene, as we don't show up until the last foot on this scale!

Have students walk along the time line, reading and discussing as they go.

There are many variations of this activity, which is designed to give students a feel for the age of the earth and our place in time on it. Set this up as a stand-alone experience, or have students help you and learn as they go.



Geographic Spiral image courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey

TIME

Discussion Guide



Choose from or adapt these prompts to lead a discussion of various grade-appropriate aspects of the concept of time.

- What time is it right now? How do you know?
- Is it the same time everywhere?
- When it's noon on the east coast of the United States, what time is it on the west coast? What time is it in Paris, France? Kampala, Uganda? Beijing, China? Santiago, Chile? Why?
- What's your favorite time of day? Why?
- What's your favorite time of year? Why?
- How much of a typical day do you spend sleeping? Eating? At school? With your family? Doing homework? Playing sports? Practicing dance, music, or art? Watching TV? Outside? Exercising? Using electronic devices? Doing chores?
- Why do we need to measure and keep track of time?
- How and why did the development of train travel change how we measure time?
- How many months are in a year, weeks in a month, days in a week, hours in a day, minutes in an hour, seconds in a minute? Why? How did we get to those numbers?
- What other calendars are you aware of (perhaps used by religious or cultural communities)?
- How did people measure time before we had modern clocks and calendars?
- When did time begin?
- Does time always pass at the same rate? Does it seem like time passes faster or slower depending on what you're doing? Give examples.
- Would you like to travel back or forward in time? Why or why not?
- Do you think time travel is scientifically possible?
- Can you imagine what your parents or grandparents were like when they were the age you are now? What were their lives like?
- Can you imagine what you will be like when you are the age your parents are now? What will your life be like?

