

Stacked Timeline

Goal or objective of the lesson plan:

Students will consider how historical events and inventions may have different implications for women and men.

If it is part of a larger unit, please describe briefly:

This lesson is part of a larger unit on European history focusing on the nineteenth century. The stacked timeline covers the history of women's and men's activities in the Western world including certain inventions, events, and activities that are not typically highlighted in textbooks.

Projected length of time needed to complete it:

Projected length of time is one class period, but extension activities can easily be added.

Materials needed:

Multiple copies of the timeline

Optional: chart paper and markers

If your school or district requires the listing of standards in your lesson plans, please include:

Pennsylvania Department of Education standards include:

Arts and Humanities—

Standard 9.2 – Historical and Cultural Contexts

History—

Standard 8.1 – Historical Analysis and Skills Development

Standard 8.4 – World History

Suggested pre-lesson activities:

Have students complete a free write about what historical events or inventions mean the most to them and why. Divide the students into small groups to share their writings. Ask them to select a reporter and have the small groups report out. Chart paper may or may not be used to capture their reports.

Please outline the lesson:

Distribute the timeline.* Ask students to reduce the timeline to the ten most significant events for their own lives and to be prepared to defend their choices. Students could also be asked to include other events or inventions.

After the students have had a chance to select and defend their choices, ask students to think about how gender is present in their choices and in the events and inventions in the timeline. They should also consider representations of race and class. Students should consider how current events and popular inventions reflect gendered interests.

Assessment:

Have students prepare a “balanced” timeline for the last twenty years, approximately, and write an essay on their understanding of the representation of women and men in history or other disciplines.

Suggestions for follow-up lessons:

The critical questions that students develop in this activity can be used throughout other units: Where are the women? Where are the men? What is each group doing? Not doing? Where is there evidence of crossing boundaries according to gender expectations?

N.B. A good classroom reference book for extensions of this activity is:

Greenspan, Karen. 1994. *The Timetables of Women’s History: A Chronology of the Most Important People and Events in Women’s History*. New York: Touchstone.

***The “Stacked” Timeline (Source unknown)**

- 1774 – Louis XVI becomes King of France
- 1788 – Leicester, England: Hand spinners foment industrial protest, destroying spinning machines
- 1789 – French National Assembly adopts *Declaration of the Rights of Man*
- 1791 – Olympe de Gouges publishes her *Declaration of the Rights of Woman and Citizen*
- 1792 - Mary Wollstonecraft publishes *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*
- 1796 – Edward Jenner introduces inoculation against smallpox
- 1800 – Combination Acts bans trade unions in England
- 1801 – Union of Great Britain and Ireland
- 1804 – Napoleon I declares himself Emperor of France
- 1807 - Peace of Tilsit: Prussia and Russia join France against England
- 1818 – Spinners’ Strike; women members of union draw strike pay equally with men
- 1820 – Congress of Troppau: attempt at protection against internal revolution by international action
- 1823 – Charles Babbage constructs “Analytical Engine,” forerunner of computer; Augusta, Countess Lovelace, writes first “computer program” for aforementioned
- 1830 – Revolutions in France and Belgium
- 1832 – Pope Gregory XVI’s encyclical condemns freedom of conscience and of the press
- 1833 – Abolition Act: slavery abolished in British Empire
- 1837 – Mme. deMauchamp presents petition to French Chamber of Deputies to have article 210, “The wife owes obedience to her husband,” removed from the Civil Code.
- 1839 – Commissioner Lin’s confiscation and burning of 3 million pounds’ worth of opium, illegally imported into China by British merchants, gives rise to the Opium War
- 1841 – Life expectancy at birth: 40 years for men, 42 years for women in England
- 1846 – Corn Laws repealed: free import of small grains into Britain
- 1853 – Chloroform becomes accepted for anesthesia in childbirth
- 1854 – Crimean War begins
- 1855 – Florence Nightingale introduces hygienic standards in military hospitals
- 1856 – Establishment of Office for the Studies of Barbarian (that is, European) books in Japan
- 1859 – Charles Darwin’s *Origin of Species* gives evidence for and explanation of evolution
- 1861 – 26% of all women in Britain are gainfully employed, nearly half of them as domestic servants
- 1864 – First meeting of First International (International Working Men’s Association)
- 1865 – Washing machines in industrial production

1866 – 25% of all women in France are gainfully employed, about a quarter of them as domestic servants, about half in garment-making and textiles

1867 – Volume I of Karl Marx's *Das Kapital* published

1870 – Franco-Prussian War begins

1874 – Women's Trade Union League founded in England

1880 – Canned fruits and meats first appear in stores

1882 – Married Women's Property Act in England gives wives right of ownership independent of their husbands

1890 – Average wage of women workers less than half that of men

1896 – 52% if all single, 38% if all married women in France are gainfully employed

1896 – Ethiopians defeat Italian army in pitched battle in Adowa

1904 – Japan defeats Russia and enters ranks of "Great Powers"