

My Neighbor Is A Caterpillar

Creating A Time Line – Grade Four

Indiana Standards Connection:

Social Studies

History

4.1.13

Identify and describe important events and movements that changed life in Indiana from the mid-twentieth century to the present.

4.1.15

Create and interpret timelines that show relationships among people, events, and movements in the history of Indiana.

Language Arts

Reading: Processes and Features

4.4.6

Locate information in reference texts by using organizational features, such as prefaces and appendices.

4.4.7

Use multiple reference materials and on-line information as aids to writing.

Lesson Summary:

In this lesson, students will learn to create time lines and gain a better perspective on the passage of time and the number of historic events that can occur in a lifetime. The teacher begins the lesson by demonstrating the importance of proper intervals on a time line. The teacher points out that the events documented on the “Caterpillar” timeline all had an impact on Mr. Jackson’s life in some way. By examining his age during each event, students can guess how the event might have impacted him. For instance, he mentions having a son who served in combat. Ask the students to posit in which war Mr. Jackson’s son may have served, given Mr. Jackson’s age at the beginning of the timeline. Discuss the average age of a soldier in combat (i.e. 17-25)

Pre-Assessment:

Have students create a time line that dates from Mr. Jackson joining the Army in 1943 to 2008. Marks on the timeline will include significant American military events in that time period (top of timeline) and Mr. Jackson’s corresponding age at each interval (bottom of timeline). Students will need to estimate his age, given the information provided in the book (i.e. that he left high school to join the military, that it took him a while to get shipped overseas, etc). Students will need to use textbooks, the internet, the library etc. in order to determine where the listed events should fall on the timeline.

Post-Assessment:

Have students take their timelines home and add another level to the exercise by talking to their parents and grandparents about their own experiences during those time frames. Do they have grandparents or great grandparents who are Mr. Jackson’s age? Do they have veterans in their families who might have served in one of the events listed on the time line. If so, where would their service dates fall on the timeline? Next, in class, have students create a timeline of their own lives and track major events, both personal, statewide, and national, on the timeline. (Example: the birth of a sibling, the loss of a grandparent, a natural disaster or significant election in Indiana, a national election, the beginning of the war in Iraq etc.)

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TIMELINE HANDOUT

Name: _____ Date: _____

Mr. Jackson told Michael that he quit high school in 1943 to join the Army. How old do you think he was when he quit? If the story takes place in or around 2008, about how old is Mr. Jackson in the story? Remember that most soldiers in combat are between 18 and 25; some were even younger during World War II – and much younger during earlier conflicts such as the Civil War (1861-1865), where boys as young as 13 or 14 fought in battle.

Create a timeline of Mr. Jackson's life showing significant events in American military history and how old Mr. Jackson would have been during each event (for those events that span several years, you can chart Mr. Jackson's age at the beginning and end of the event.)

Begin with his enlistment in the Army in 1943 and end with the beginning of 2008 (since we don't know the exact date the story takes place.)

You will need to conduct internet and/or library research in order to get the proper dates for your timeline. On a separate sheet of paper, write a description of what each of these events were and how they did or might have impacted the lives of people living in Indiana at that time.

Key events to include would be:

V-E Day – World War II

V-J Day – World War II

The Berlin Airlift

The Korean War

The Vietnam War

The Gulf War

The First Attack on the World Trade Center in New York by Al-Qaeda

The Second Attack on the World Trade Center in New York by Al-Qaeda

You may select other significant military events to place on the timeline as well as events you feel are significant to the state of Indiana, but those above should definitely be there.