**1. What Is a Timeline?**

* A **timeline** is a picture or chart that shows events in the order they happened, like a line that moves from the past to the present.
  + Example: A timeline of your day might show when you wake up, eat breakfast, go to school, and sleep.
* **Why Use a Timeline?** It helps kids see how things happen one after another, like telling a story with dates or times.

**2. Key Ideas**

* **Sequence**: Events go in order (first, next, then, last). Example: “First, the seed is planted. Next, it grows into a sprout.”
* **Time Words**: Use words like “yesterday,” “today,” “tomorrow,” “morning,” or “afternoon” to help kids understand time.
* **Simple Dates**: Focus on years (e.g., 2020, 2025) or general periods (e.g., “when I was a baby”) instead of complex dates.
* **Visuals**: Bright colors, pictures, or drawings make timelines fun and easy to understand.

**3. Examples of Timelines**

* **Personal Timeline**: A timeline of a student’s life (e.g., “Born in 2017,” “Started school in 2021,” “Got a pet in 2024”).
* **Classroom Timeline**: Events in a school year (e.g., “September: First day of school,” “December: Winter party”).
* **Historical Timeline**: Simple historical events (e.g., “1492: Columbus sailed,” “1969: Moon landing”).
* **Story Timeline**: Events from a book, like *Charlotte’s Web* (e.g., “Wilbur meets Charlotte,” “Charlotte writes in her web”).

**4. How to Create a Timeline (Classroom or Home Activity)**

* **Materials Needed**:
  + Paper (long strip or regular), markers, crayons, stickers, or printed pictures.
  + Optional: String and clothespins for a “clothesline” timeline.
* **Steps**:
  + **Choose a Topic**: Pick something fun, like “My Day,” “My Life,” or a favorite story.
  + **List Events**: Write down 3–5 events with simple descriptions (e.g., “8 AM: I wake up”).
  + **Draw a Line**: Make a long straight line on paper to show time moving forward.
  + **Add Events**: Mark each event on the line with a dot or picture. Write the time or year next to it.
  + **Decorate**: Use colors, drawings, or stickers to make it exciting (e.g., draw a sun for morning events).
  + **Share**: Talk about the timeline with classmates or family to explain the order of events.

**5.Example Timeline (My Day)**:

* + 7:00 AM: Wake up (draw a bed).
  + 8:00 AM: Eat breakfast (draw cereal).
  + 9:00 AM: Go to school (draw a school bus).
  + 3:00 PM: Play outside (draw a ball).
  + 7:00 PM: Bedtime (draw a moon).

**6. Example Timeline (Historical Events)**

Here’s a simple timeline idea for teaching history to third graders:

| **Year** | **Event** | **Picture Idea** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Long Ago | Dinosaurs lived | Dinosaur drawing |
| 1492 | Columbus sailed to America | Ship picture |
| 1776 | America became a country | Flag sticker |
| 1969 | People landed on the moon | Moon and rocket |
| 2025 | Today (our year!) | Smiley face |