

# Timelines - What are They?

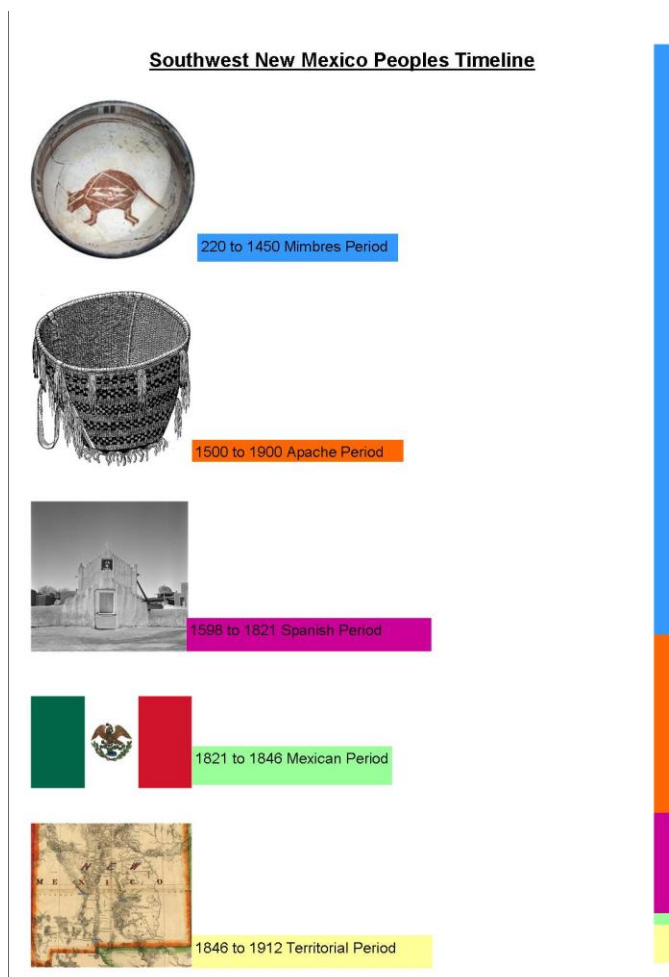
Historians and museums use timelines to keep track of things that happen on certain days or years, the growth of civilization, the progress of a war, and the development of new technology.

It can also help you tell certain events happened much closer together in time than other events.

For instance, look at this list of peoples of southwest New Mexico

- Mimbres Period, 220 to 1450
- Apache Period, 1500 to 1900
- Spanish Period, 1598 to 1821
- Mexican Period, 1821 to 1846
- Territorial Period, 1846 to 1912

Now, let's put these eras on a timeline (below). Notice the lengths of the time periods. It can help you tell that certain periods were much longer than other periods.



When you visit the Silver City Museum, look carefully at the exhibits and see if any timelines are used.