

Fairy Tale Timeline

For this activity, kids will create a [beginning-middle-end](#) illustrated timeline based on a fairy tale you've read together.

Individual: each child chooses a fairy tale and works independently.

Small groups (2-3 kids): each group chooses a fairy tale and works collaboratively.

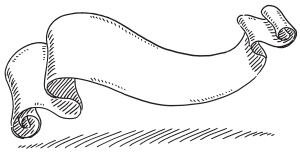
Supplies

- Pencils and art supplies: colored pencils, markers, crayons, paint. Colored construction paper (optional)
- **Option A:** drawing paper or heavier construction paper: 8-1/2 x 11 (3-9 sheets per timeline). Or a roll of white paper or kraft paper
- **Option B:** index cards: 6-9 per child or small group (or use the template on page 15). Yarn or string. Hole puncher or clothespins (optional)
- Scotch tape, scissors
- School glue; masking tape or painters tape (optional)
- Wooden dowels, 12-18 inches long (depending on the height of your paper) and 1/4-inch diameter, two per map (optional)

Get kids thinking

Talk about the fairy tale you read together. What happens in the beginning of the story? In the middle of the story? And what happens at the end? Give kids time to think about these three elements in each part of the story: the [characters](#), the [setting](#) (time and place), and the [action](#).

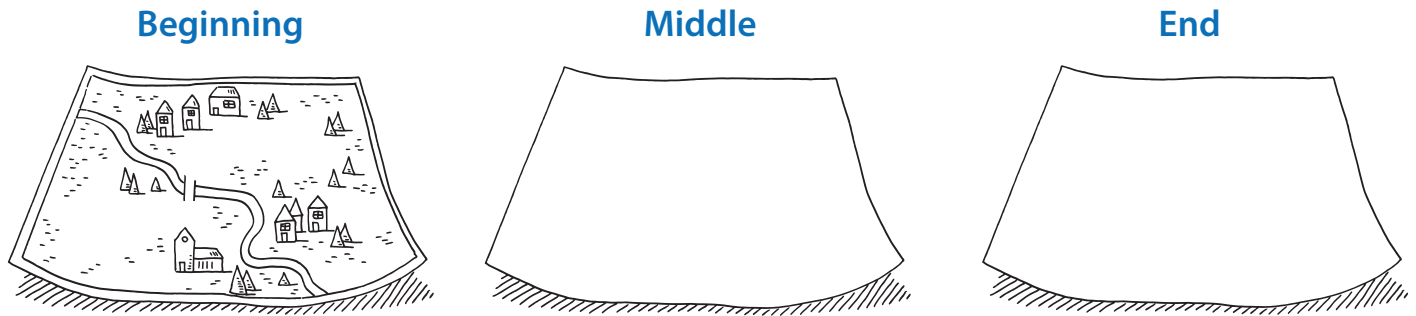
Tell kids that they will be creating their own illustrated timeline that tells the main parts of the story.



Fairy Tale Timeline

Let's get started

Option A: Give each child 3-9 sheets of paper depending on how detailed they want their timelines to be. For younger children, you can offer 3 sheets and suggest a basic beginning-middle-end timeline.



Older kids may want to fill in more details (especially for the middle section of the fairy tale) and will want 6 or more sheets of paper.

If you have a roll of white paper or kraft paper, cut 3-foot lengths or longer for children who want to make very detailed timelines.

Option B: Give each child 6-9 index cards (3 cards for younger kids). Tell kids to use the blank side of the card for their timeline, and to think of each card as an event on the timeline. Or, you can print and cutout the template cards from page 14.

Illustrating the timeline

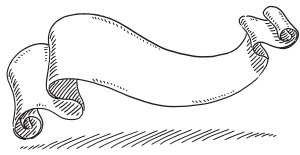
Have the kids think about the [characters](#), the [time and place](#), and the [action](#) for each section of their timeline.

The timeline should include words and pictures. The words can describe the time and place ("A long time ago ... in a kingdom by the Silver Sea" or "next Spring, out in the woods ...") or the characters ("The brave fisherman took his boat out to sea ...").

Now the kids can begin to work on their timeline. Suggest that they sketch out their drawings in pencil first, and then finish in colored pencil, crayon, marker, or paint. Kids can also use cut paper to create some of the elements on their timelines.

Assembling the timeline

Option A: Tape the pieces of the timeline together on the backside. Be sure to get the pieces in the correct order! You may suggest to the kids that they write the number of each page or index card on the back — 1, 2, 3, and so on.



Fairy Tale Timeline

Let's get started (continued)

Option B: Use the hole puncher to make a hole on the top right and left corners of the index card. Then cut a length of yarn or string and have the kids weave it through the holes to create a line of cards, like in the example below. You could alternatively use clothespins to attach the cards to the yarn or string.

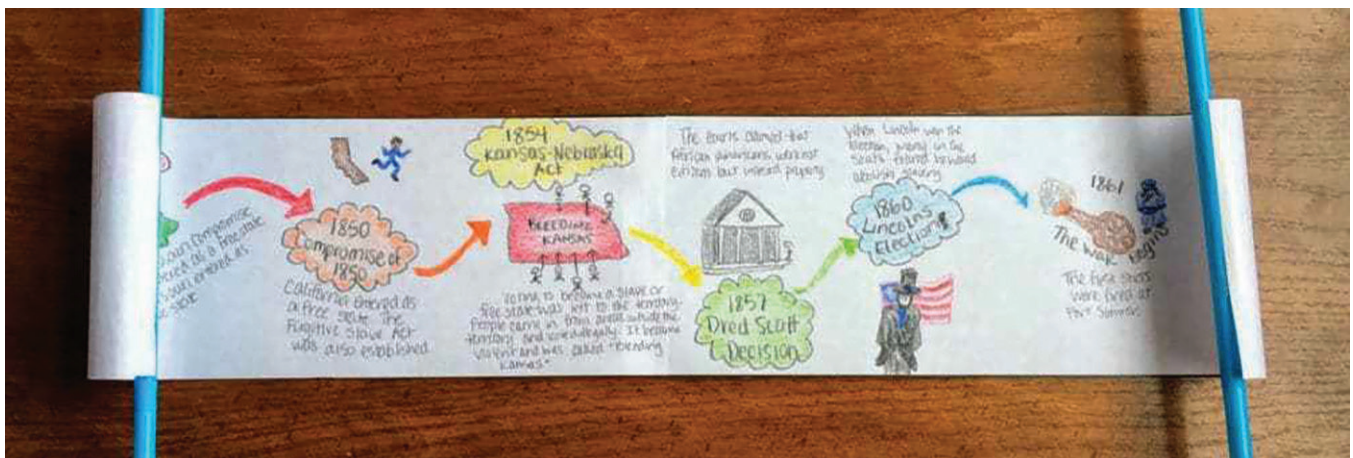


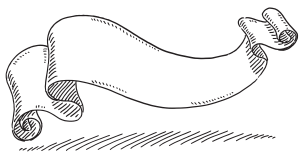
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When the timelines are finished, tape them to the wall, and ask the kids to tell the fairy tale in their own words while pointing out important events and action on their timelines.

Try this!

Scroll Timeline: Cut the wooden dowels to the right length — about 4 inches taller than the height of each child's timeline. Have the kids attach the dowels to the right and left sides of the paper with glue or tape. Roll up the timeline into a cylinder, like a Torah or Japanese scroll. (If you use glue to attach the dowels, be sure it is dry before you roll the paper.) Kids can dramatically unroll their timeline to share with family and friends — you might even need a helper to hold one side of the timeline as you unroll.





Fairy Tale Timeline

Mask making

Storytellers and actors from all over the world have used masks for thousands of years to help tell their stories. Invite kids to make masks of the characters from their fairy tales. You can use ordinary household items or recyclable materials, or make one with papier maché. Find directions at the links below:

- [Milk jugs](#)
- [Cardboard](#)
- [Egg cartons](#)
- [Paper plates](#)
- [Paper bags](#)
- [Papier maché](#)



Photo © Warren King

Sharing our work

When the timelines are finished, tape them to the wall, and ask the kids to tell their fairy tale in their own words while pointing out important places on their timelines.

For more reading, writing, and learning resources, visit www.StartWithABook.org



Fairy Tale Timeline Template

