Understanding Periodization

How Does History Get Its Name?

One of the most difficult aspects of studying world history is understanding how periods of time are defined. Most people struggle to understand the broad themes that tie individuals together THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, and not just in a specific region or based on a specific culture.

First, together we need to define the following terms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chronology</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Periodization</td>
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Next, using the concepts of chronology and periodization, you are going to construct a personal history timeline. Though you are still young, you have probably experienced several defining moments in your life. Using the timeline below, brainstorm 10 life events and place them chronologically. Place these personal events ABOVE the line below. Be sure to include the approximate date.

Now select 5 historical events that happened during your lifetime that you feel are significant. Place them in chronological order BELOW the line.

Once completed, look for 5 events that might share a common theme. Circle these 5 events on the timeline. Define the period of history that connects those 5 points. What would you label that period of time? (For example, The ________________ Years, The Age of ___________________, The Time of __________________.)

Period title: ____________________________
Critical Thinking Question: How does periodization make understanding history easier?