Using A Timeline

A timeline is an easy way to make sense of dates and events. A timeline is a simple diagram that shows how dates and events relate to one another. A timeline is read from left to right. It has a title and years that are EVENLY spaced and labels major events.

Please follow the directions step by step to build your history timeline of Aquidneck island.

Try IT!

1) **Turn the sheet of paper sideways.** Using an 8 ½ by 11 sheet of paper use a ruler to draw a straight line 8 inches long across the middle of the paper. Draw a big dot on the left end of the line.

2) **Mark the years.** Under the dot on the left write the year of the first event you have researched. Measure equally along the line in order to place enough dots for the remaining events on your list and write the corresponding year under each dot. Continue until you reach the final year on your list of events. Each year, regardless of time span is equally spaced along the line.

3) **Add the events.** Above the first dot write the name of the first event. Continue labeling the dates with the corresponding events. Connect each event to the right place on the line using a ruler and a vertical line. Labels can be placed above and/or below the timeline.

4) **Give your timeline an appropriate title.** You must include a title at the top of your timeline so it will be easily identified by the audience. Now look at your timeline, and ask yourself, “Does this make it easy for someone to learn about the events of Aquidneck Island?” If you answer “yes” then you did a great job!