Timeline of the Past

12,000?-5000 B.C.
- Domestication of animals and development of agriculture in the Middle East, China, and Mesoamerica
- End of the Ice Age
- Mastodons, short-nosed bear, and other megafauna roam North America
- Paleoindian and early Archaic populations live in small bands of hunters and gatherers using refined stone tools

5000-700 B.C.
- Sumerian civilization thrives in Mesopotamia
- The atlatl, a spear thrower, aids hunters across North America
- Many cultures travel the seas
- The Nile River becomes the heart of Egypt
- Stonehenge erected
- The arch is used in the entrance at the Ishtar Gate in Babylon
- Shang Dynasty governs China
- North American populations start to become more settled and build ceremonial centers such as mounds

700-200 B.C.
- Greek Empire
- Pottery technology spreads across North America
- Celtic Europe
- Early Woodland cultures in the U.S. construct elaborate mortuary complexes with log tombs
- Roman Republic spreads across three continents
- Buddhism becomes influential across Asia

200 B.C.-500 A.D.
- Hopewell cultures are involved in extensive trade network from conch shells to obsidian to copper
- Start of Mayan Civilization
- Beginning of Christianity
- The dome of the Pantheon is constructed
- The Great Wall erected and Chinese produce paper
- Pueblo basketmakers in the southwestern U.S.
- Death of Julius Caesar on the Ides of March
500-1200 A.D.
- European Middle Ages
- Late Woodland and Mississippian cultures thrive in North America
- Chinese invent gun powder
- Barbarians invade Europe and Vikings invade England
- Height of Mayan Civilization
- Beginning of Islam
- Bow and arrow technology spreads across North America

1200-1700 A.D.
- Renaissance and the age of exploration
- Mississippian culture throughout eastern U.S.
- The populations of London and Cahokia (near modern day St Louis) are thought to be 20,000 inhabitants in the 12th century (The numbers of Cahokia are still wrapped in debate.)
- Ottoman Empire
- Fur trade activities in North America
- Conflict between Native Americans and settlers arose
- Spanish explorers encounter barbeque in the Caribbean
- Spanish Armada defeat by English fleet
- Dissolution of Iroquois Nation

1700-1816 A.D.
- The French and Indian War
- American and French Revolutions
- The deaths of Mozart, Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, and Catharine the Great in six years (1791-1796)
- Industrial revolution and the invention of the steam engine

1816-1900 A.D.
- Indiana Statehood
- Many Native Americans removed to Oklahoma in the Trail of Tears
- Railroads and electricity
- Underground Railroad
- American Civil War
- Germany becomes a unified nation
- Submarines, bicycles, flying machines, automobiles

Reference:
Duiker, William and Jackson Spielvogel

Photo and Illustration Credits:
Richard Fields, DNR, Outdoor Indiana; John Maxwell, DNR; DNR, DHPA