

H5P guides: How to create a *Timeline* activity

Use the *Timeline* content type to present a sequence of events in chronological order. Learners can navigate through the timeline to explore key dates, milestones, and developments, with each entry containing text and/or multimedia.

This guide was adapted from [Timeline Tutorial](#), licensed under [CC BY 4.0](#).

When *Timeline* works best

Timeline works best when students need to understand the order and progression of events. Use it to present information that unfolds over time, helping learners identify patterns, connections, causes, and consequences across a sequence of developments.

Examples

- Present key events in a historical period.
- Show the stages of a scientific discovery or breakthrough.
- Explore the life and work of an influential figure.
- Illustrate the development of a theory, concept, or discipline.
- Map the progression of a project or research study.
- Present milestones in organisational, political, or social change.
- Trace the evolution of technology, products, or services.

Locating images

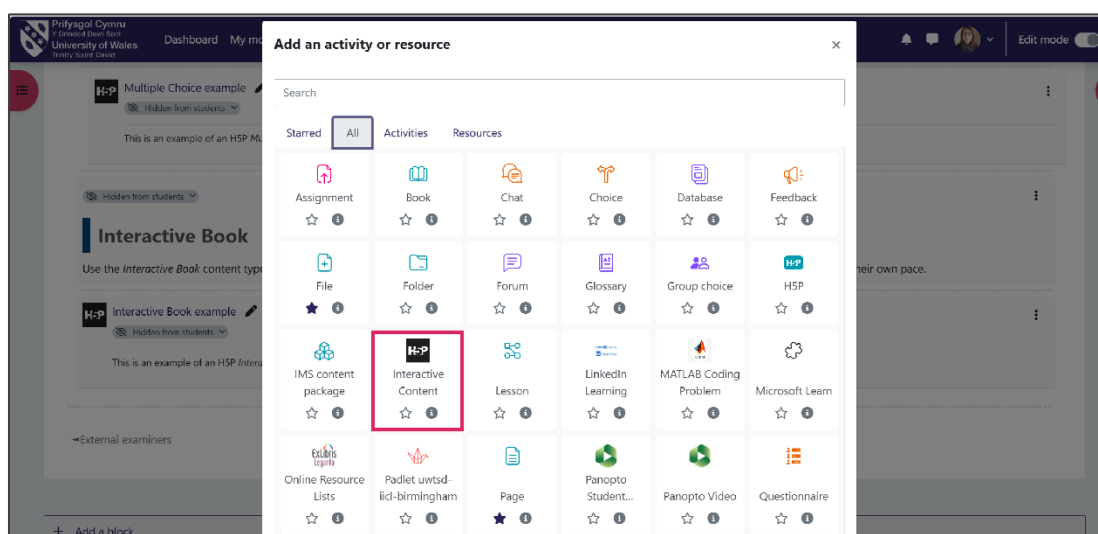
Ensure you are copyright compliant when using images for your teaching. You can find more information on the Copyright Hub: [Copyright for Staff](#)

Step 1: Add the H5P *Timeline* activity

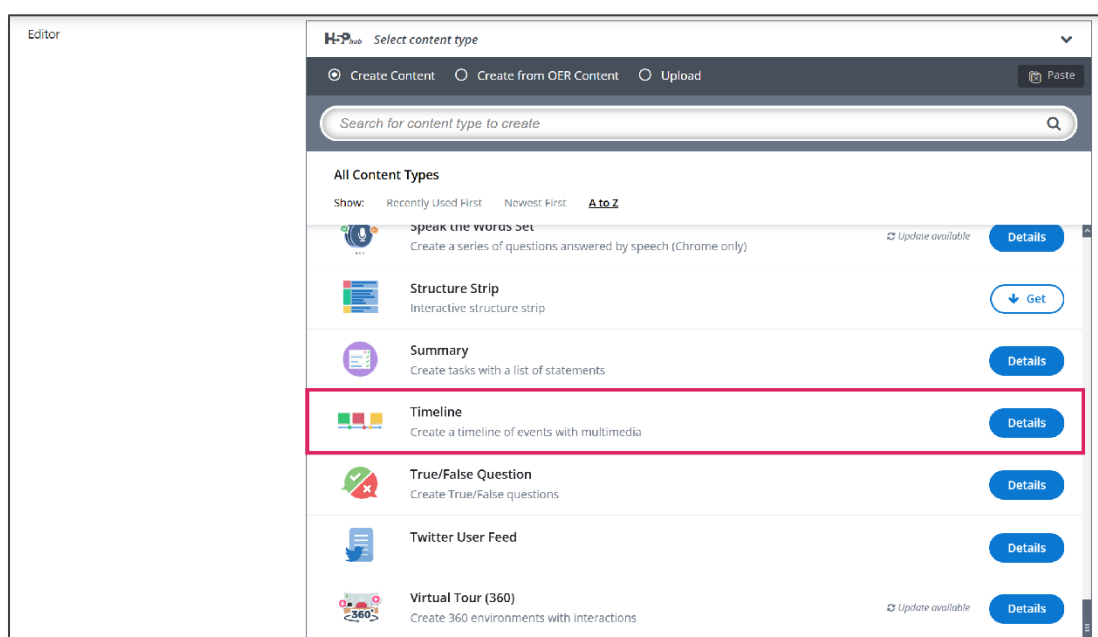
You can use *Timeline* as a standalone activity, or in an *Interactive Book*.

Using *Timeline* as a standalone activity

1. In Moodle, turn **Edit mode** on and navigate to the section where you want to add the activity.
2. Select **Add an activity or resource** or select the plus button (+) to add the activity between existing content.
3. From the list of activities and resources, select **H5P Interactive Content**.



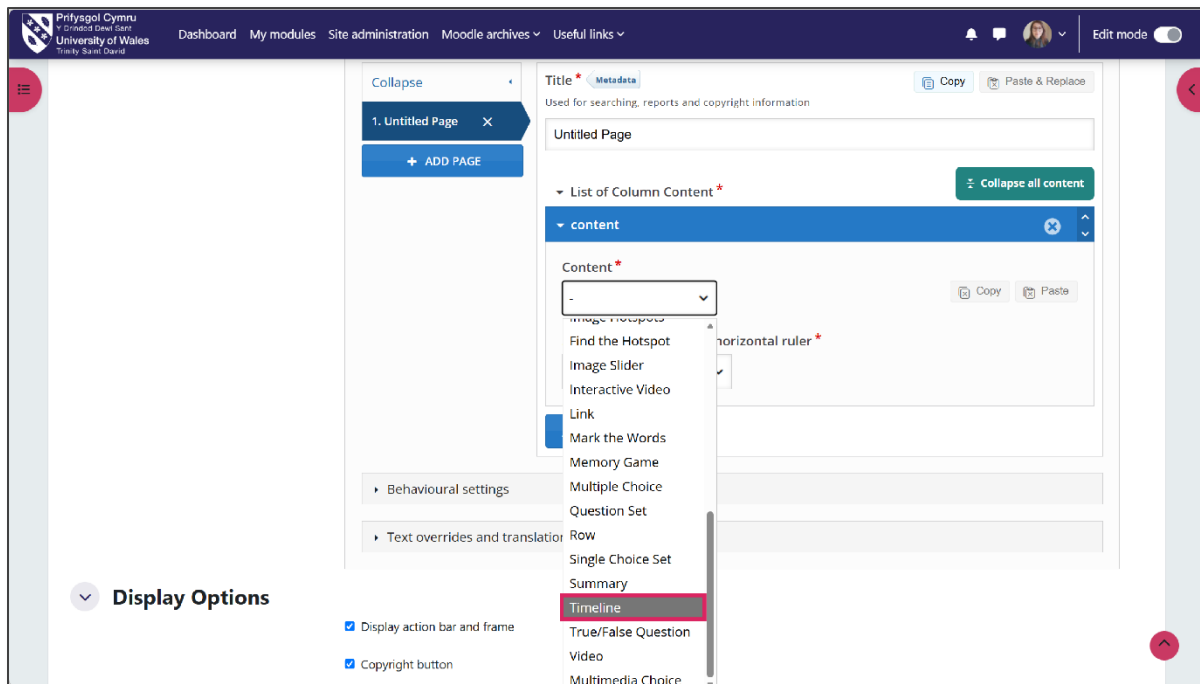
4. From the list of content types shown in the *Editor* section, select **Timeline**. The H5P editor will appear.



Using *Timeline* in an *Interactive Book*

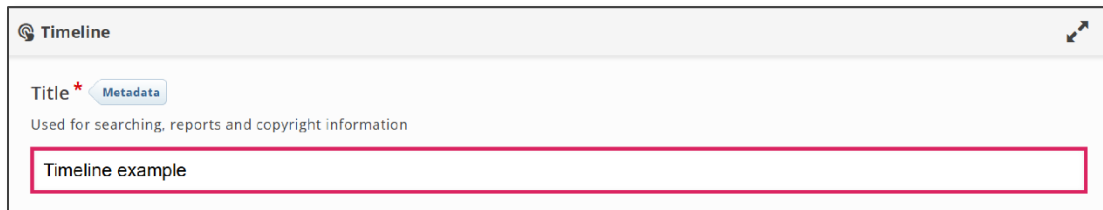
In addition to being used as a standalone activity, this content type can also be added to an *Interactive Book*, where it can be combined with other H5P content types.

In the *Interactive Book* editor, select **Add content** and choose **Timeline** from the **Content** drop-down list.



Step 2: Add an activity title and description

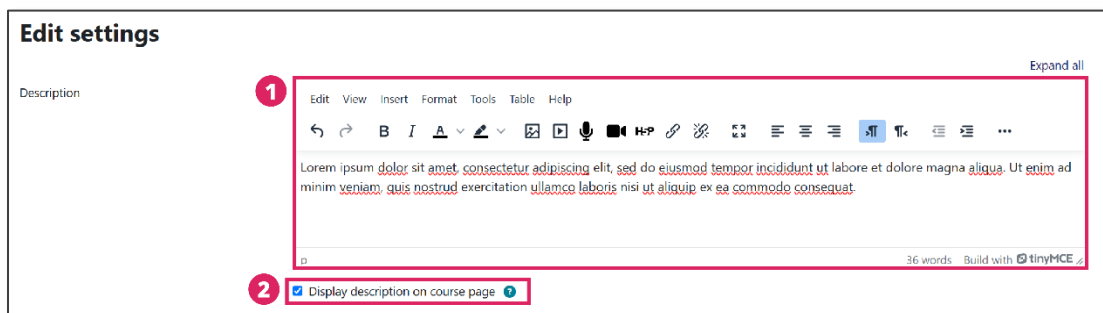
1. Add a title for your activity in the **Title** field. This will be visible to learners, so make sure that it's clear and adequately describes the activity.



The screenshot shows the 'Timeline' activity configuration interface. At the top, there's a 'Title' field with a red asterisk and a 'Metadata' button. Below it, a note says 'Used for searching, reports and copyright information'. The 'Title' field contains the text 'Timeline example' and is highlighted with a red border.

2. Add a short activity description in the **Description** field (see marker 1), to help learners understand what the activity is about and provide scaffolding. The **Description** field is at the top of the page, just above the H5P editor.

Tick **Display description on course page** (see marker 2), so that learners can view the description before they start the activity.



The screenshot shows the 'Edit settings' page for the Timeline activity. The 'Description' field is at the top, with a red circle and the number '1' next to it. Below the description field is a red-bordered box containing a rich text editor with a toolbar and placeholder text. At the bottom of the settings page, there is a checkbox labeled 'Display description on course page' with a red circle and the number '2' next to it. The checkbox is checked.

Note: Remember that when using a *Timeline* activity in an *Interactive Book* you don't need to set a description.

Step 3: Set the timeline's starting slide

The next section contains the content that appears on the timeline's opening slide.

- **Headline** (see marker 1): This is the title displayed on the starting slide. You can use the same text as the *Title* entered in the previous step.
- **Body Text** (see marker 2): This text appears below the *Headline*. It is similar to the *Description* field in the previous step. You can leave this blank or add a short introductory sentence about the timeline's topic.
- **Background image** (see marker 3): Here you can add a background image for the whole timeline. This is optional and for decorative purposes only, so it can be left empty. If you choose to add an image, use a high-quality image that is not too busy, as this will help keep the text easy to read.

▼ The V&A Museum history

Headline *

Main timeline heading goes here (first page)

1

The V&A Museum history

Body Text

The main timeline body goes here (first page).

2

In this interactive timeline you can explore the V&A key milestones, from its opening in 1852 to the most recent expansions.

Default zoom level

This will tweak the default zoom level. Equivalent to pressing the zoom in or zoom out button the specified number of times. Negative numbers zoom out. default is 0

0

Background image

An image to display as background.

3

+ Add

Step 4: Add date entries

Under **Dates** add the events that will appear on the timeline. The first one is added by default.

- **Start date** (see marker 1): Enter the date when the event happened or began. You can include just a year, or add a month and/or a day.
- **End date** (see marker 2): Enter the date when the event ended, if applicable. You can include just a year, or add a month and/or a day. For single-day or point-in-time events, you can leave this field blank.
- **Headline** (see marker 3): Enter a short, descriptive title for the event. This will be displayed prominently on the timeline.
- **Body text** (see marker 4): Add a brief description of the event. Include the key information learners need to understand its significance. Keep the text concise and focused.

The screenshot shows a web interface for adding date entries. At the top, there is a section titled 'Dates' with a red asterisk and a sub-header 'Add some dates to your timeline!'. Below this is a form titled 'Date' with a close button and a dropdown arrow. The form contains four main sections, each with a numbered marker in a red circle: 1. 'Start date' with a red asterisk and a placeholder 'YYYY,MM,DD (Minimum YYYY required)'. 2. 'End date' with a placeholder 'YYYY,MM,DD (Minimum YYYY required)'. 3. 'Headline' with a red asterisk and a placeholder 'Headline for the date entry'. 4. 'Body text' with a placeholder 'Body for the date entry'. Below these are two more sections: 'Tags' with a placeholder 'Enter Tags (categories)' and 'Asset' with a placeholder 'Asset'. The form is styled with a light gray background and red borders for the input fields.

Adding media to a date entry

Important: The *Timeline* content type only supports **linked media**, not file uploads. This means the media must be hosted online and accessible via a direct URL (for example, an image from Wikimedia Commons or a video from YouTube).

To add an image and video to a date entry, expand the **Assets** panel at the bottom of the entry. Then fill in these fields:

- **Media** (see marker 1): Add the URL of the image or video you want to display.
 - For images, open the image in a new browser tab, then copy the URL from the browser's address bar.
 - For videos, paste the URL.
- **Credit** (see marker 2): Enter the source or creator of the media, and if required, any licence or copyright information (e.g. a Creative Commons licence). This helps ensure that images and videos are properly attributed.
- **Caption** (see marker 3): Enter a short caption to provide context or explain the relevance of the media to the timeline entry.

The screenshot shows the 'Asset' panel of a form. It contains four sections: 'Media' with a text input field marked with a red circle and the number 1; 'Thumbnail' with a sub-label 'Add a thumbnail if needed, 32x32' and a button with a green plus icon and the text '+ Add'; 'Credit' with a sub-label 'Credits to the media' and a text input field marked with a red circle and the number 2; and 'Caption' with a sub-label 'Caption text' and a text input field marked with a red circle and the number 3.

Adding more entries

To add a new entry, select the **Add item** button at the end of the last entry and repeat the steps above for each event you want to include.

The timeline will display entries in chronological order based on the dates provided.

Headline *
Headline for the date entry

V&A East Storehouse opens

Body text
Body for the date entry

V&A East Storehouse opened, a unique behind-the-scenes collections and research space nearby on Parkes Street that allows visitors to walk directly through vast holdings of the V&A's art, design, and performance archives.

Tags
Enter Tags (categories)

▶ <https://assets-cdn.vam.ac.uk/2025/05/28/08/20...>

Add item

Step 5: Add eras (optional)

Eras allow you to group timeline events into broader periods, helping learners see how individual events relate to larger phases, themes, or developments. The era will appear as a coloured bar spanning the selected time period.

To add an era, select the **Add item** button under **Eras**.



Eras

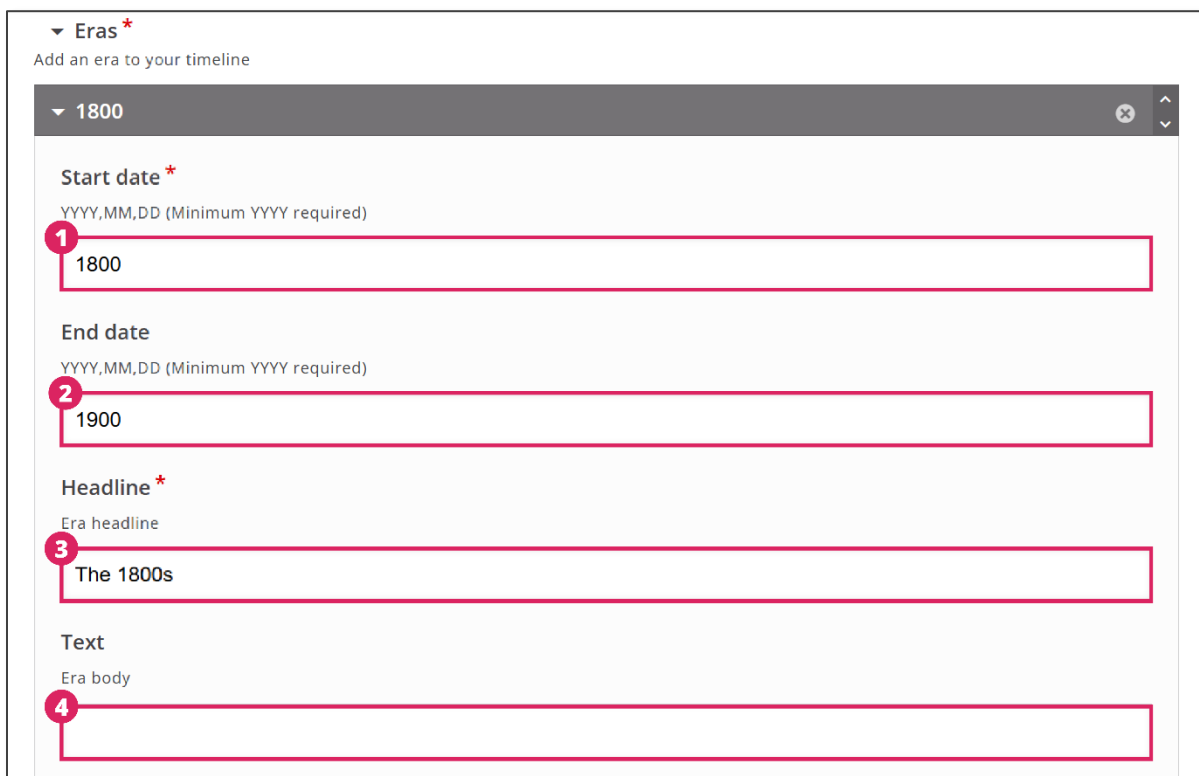
Add an era to your timeline

Add item

Then fill in these fields:

- **Start date** (see marker 1): Enter the date when the era started. You can include just a year, or add a month and/or a day.
- **End date** (see marker 2): Enter the date when the era ended, if applicable. You can include just a year, or add a month and/or a day.
- **Headline** (see marker 3): Enter a short, descriptive title for the era. This will be displayed prominently on the timeline.

Important! Do not enter any text in the field **Text** (see marker 4): There is currently a technical issue, and this text will not appear anywhere on the timeline.



▼ Eras *

Add an era to your timeline

▼ 1800

Start date *

YYYY,MM,DD (Minimum YYYY required)

1 1800

End date

YYYY,MM,DD (Minimum YYYY required)

2 1900

Headline *

Era headline

3 The 1800s

Text

Era body

4

Step 6: Save and preview

We recommend you save and preview your work frequently, to ensure the activity works as expected. To do that, select **Save and display** at the bottom of the page.



The image shows a horizontal row of three buttons within a light gray rectangular container. The first button on the left is dark blue with white text that reads "Save and return to course". The middle button is also dark blue with white text that reads "Save and display"; it is distinguished by a thin red border. The third button on the right is light gray with dark gray text that reads "Cancel".