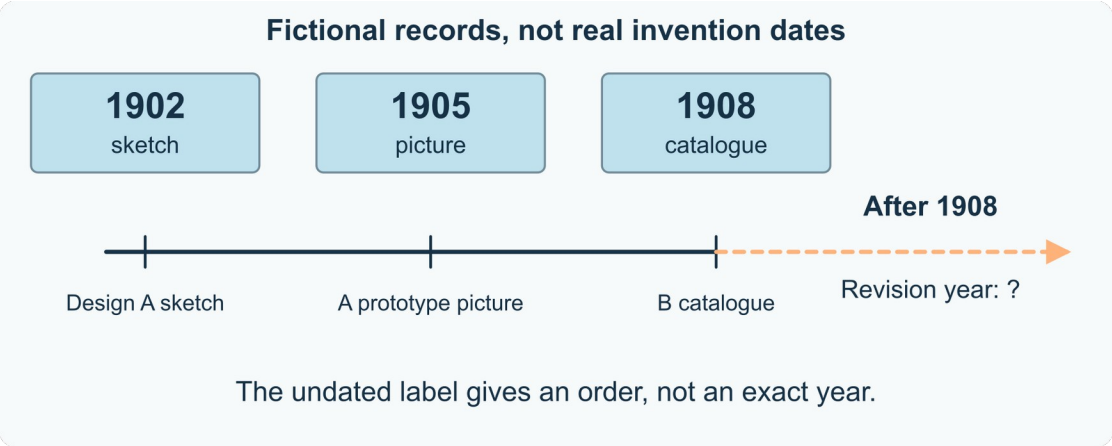
A timeline with honest gaps

How can I order supplied records while making missing information visible?

Order supplied fictional records without turning missing dates into facts.

Investigate | 10–20 minutes, or one small comparison | Scrap paper and a pencil or pen, The supplied original model; no account, purchase or online search needed

Start here Write four record cards: 1902 sketch, 1905 picture, 1908 catalogue, and an undated revision label.



A dated sequence with an open end

1 Read the records

The sketch shows design A; the picture shows an A prototype; the catalogue offers design B. The last label says revised after the 1908 catalogue.

2 Place dated items

Put 1902, 1905 and 1908 in order. These dates belong to the fictional records, not necessarily to the first invention of either design.

3 Place the uncertain item

The revision must come after the 1908 catalogue under the supplied label. Use a dashed area after 1908 rather than assigning a guessed year.

4 Write an honest caption

State what is dated, what order is supported and what remains unknown. You can leave the timeline unfinished.

Original records a made up display stand

The dates, designs and record labels are invented for this exercise.

• 1902: a design A sketch. 1905: a picture of an A prototype. 1908: a catalogue offering design B.

• The undated label says revised after the 1908 catalogue, so it belongs somewhere later than that catalogue.

• The exact revision year and the original invention date are not supplied.

What this example can show The earliest surviving record in a set is not automatically the date something was invented. The fictional cards are not historical evidence about a real product.

A different way

Read dates aloud, point to an ordered list or ask someone to move the labels for you. No scissors or real archives are required.

If you want to go further

Add a fictional dated revision receipt from 1911. Decide what this new record would change and what uncertainty would remain.

Something to notice

Have I given an unknown event a date that the records do not supply?

Read or explore more

Horizon topic Timelines Sequencing

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/timelines-sequencing/

Horizon topic Everyday Inventions

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/everyday-inventions/

Horizon topic History

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/history/

Museums Victoria Gather materials

https://museumsvictoria.com.au/education/making-history/3-research/gather-materials/

London Museum Paper clip, letter clip: object Z 6182

https://www.londonmuseum.org.uk/collections/v/object-66830/paper-clip-letter-clip/