Understanding Centuries

When you were born, you were 0 years old the entire time you were in your 1st year of life; when you were 1 year old, you were in your 2nd year of life; and at the age of 17, you will be in your 18th year of life.

Did you notice how the number of your age is always different from your year of life? For example, when you’re 2, you are in your 2nd year of life.

Dates in history are also figured this way, except instead of saying 1st year or 10th year, we talk about the 1st set of 100 years (centuries), the 10th set of 100 years, etc.

Take a look on the time line at the 1st set of 100 years following Christ’s birth (AD 1). This range of years, from 1 to 100" is called the 1st century because it is the 1st set of 100 years after the birth of Christ.

The next set of 100 years, the dates in the 100’s, is called the 2nd century, and the 1700’s is called the 18th century. This is even true for the years before Christ (BC). For example, the 3rd century BC is the 200’s.

Did you notice that the years are different from the centuries? For example, the year 1345 is in the 14th century.

A KEY TO REMEMBER!

If you’re trying to remember dates, think of the centuries by knowing which comes before and which comes after. Always translate the century into years in your head. For example:

- When you see 14th century, think 1000’s
- When you see 6th century, think 500’s

When you come across a century term in your reading, it’s always a good idea to translate it into years in your head. For example, if you read the term 15th century, think the 1400’s.

If you read a date or set of dates, but you’d like to describe them in terms of centuries, just drop the last two digits of the year and go up to the next number. For example, for the year 1453 you would think, “14 rounds up to 15, so it’s the 15th century.”

* Our modern calendar was based on the traditional placement of Christ’s birth at AD 1, although it is now believed Christ was actually born a few years prior to AD 1.

** Although technically a new century doesn’t begin until the “01” year, people commonly consider that a new “century” begins at “00” instead of “01.” Since this distinction isn’t crucial to understanding centuries, for memorization’s sake, it’s often easiest to remember that the 15th century is any date in the 1700’s, the 2nd century is any date in the 100’s, etc.

http://liveja.wordpress.com
Write your own CENTURY PRACTICE.

__The 1800's = The __________ century__

__The 1700's = The __________ century__

__The 1600's = The __________ century__

__The 1500's = The __________ century__

__The 1400's = The __________ century__

__The 1300's = The __________ century__

__The 1200's = The __________ century__

__The 1100's = The __________ century__

__The 1000's = The __________ century__

__The 900's = The __________ century__

__The 800's = The __________ century__

__The 700's = The __________ century__

__The 600's = The __________ century__

__The 500's = The __________ century__

__The 400's = The __________ century__

__The 300's = The __________ century__

__The 200's = The __________ century__

__The 190's = The __________ century__

__The 1990's = The __________ century__

Write in equivalent century and year terms. The first one has been done for you.