

Activity 3. Events (or People) that Changed the World

Instructions: At the end of the 1990s, in preparation for celebration of the start of a new millennium, many groups and individuals created lists of the most important or significant people and events in human history. *Life* magazine published a list of the “Top 100 Events of the Last Millennium” (<http://www.tostepharmd.net/hissoc/top100events.html>, accessed June 6, 2010). The top ten events from the list are included here. Students can research these events and evaluate their impact on human history. During the course of studying global history they can create their own “top” one hundred lists of people and events. As part of the project they need to explain the criteria they used for making these choices and ordering people and events and write a paragraph about each event or person. They should be prepared to defend their choices and explain why certain groups of people (e.g., women) and regions of the world are over or under represented.

Life Magazine List

1. Gutenberg prints the Christian Bible, Germany, 1455
2. Columbian Encounter, Spain and the Americas, 1492
3. Luther launches Protestant Reformation, Germany, 1517
4. James Watt patents the steam engine, England, 1769
5. Galileo establishes sun-centered solar system, Italy, 1610
6. Robert Koch develops germ theory of disease, Germany, 1882
7. Gunpowder first used in weapons, China, 1100
8. Declaration of Independence, United States, 1776
9. Hitler and Nazis come to power, Germany, 1933
10. Compass used to navigate, China, 1117