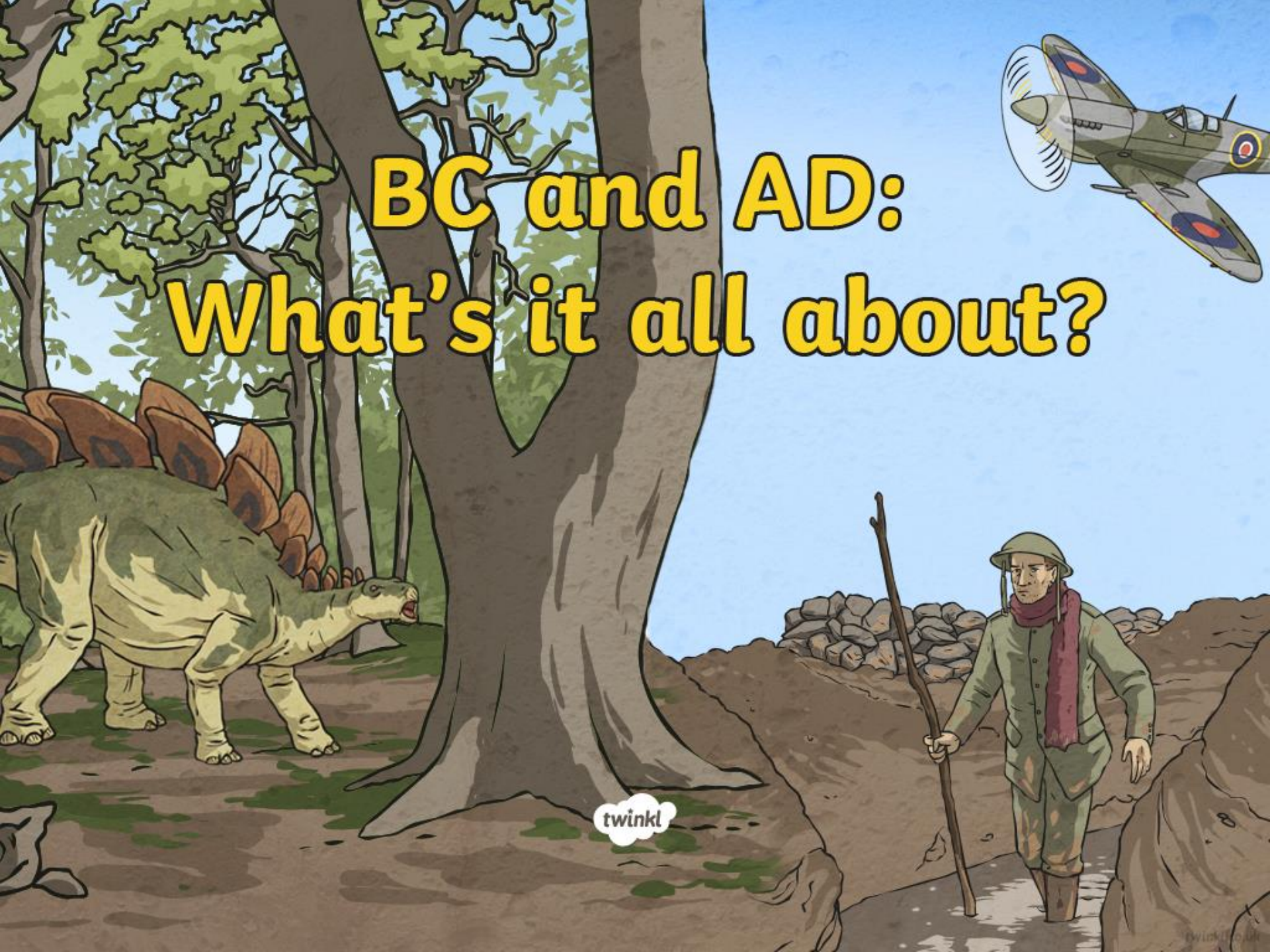


BC and AD: What's it all about?



Aim

- I can explain how and why BC and AD are used.
- I can explain variations of these terms and use them successfully.

Success Criteria

- I can tell you what BC and AD mean.
- I can tell you how BC and AD are used.
- I can tell you where BC and AD come from.
- I can tell you how other religions count years.
- I can calculate differences in time using BC and AD.

What do BC and AD mean?

BC and AD are letters often found at the end of dates written in years such as...

31BC Augustus became the Roman Emperor

AD79 Eruption of Mount Vesuvius in Pompeii

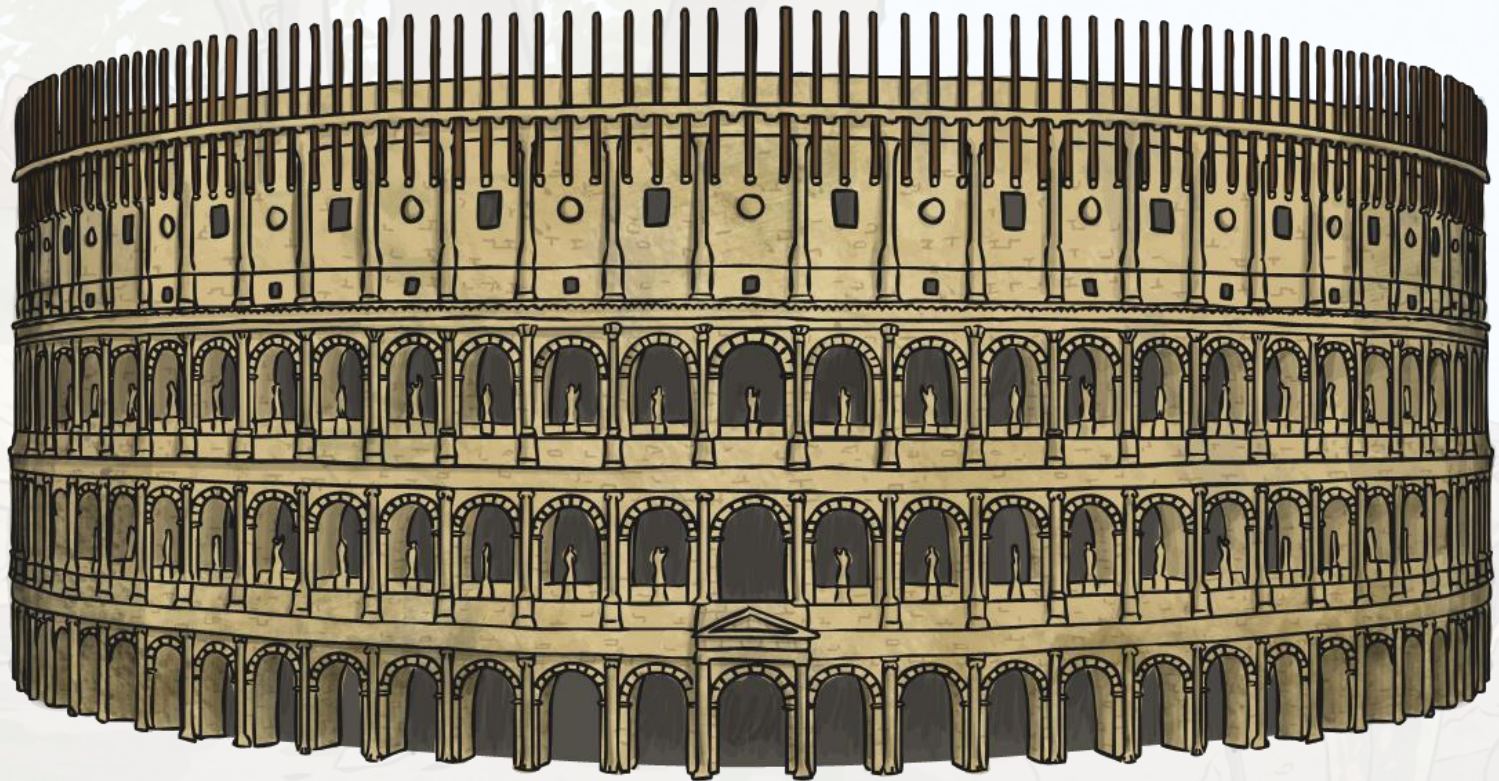
BC and AD are initials that stand for:

Before Christ
and Anno Domini



Who thought of it?

This method of dating years is called the Gregorian Calendar. It started life as the Roman Catholic Calendar, which was introduced by the Romans.



When is BC and AD?

BC refers to the years that come **before** the year 1.

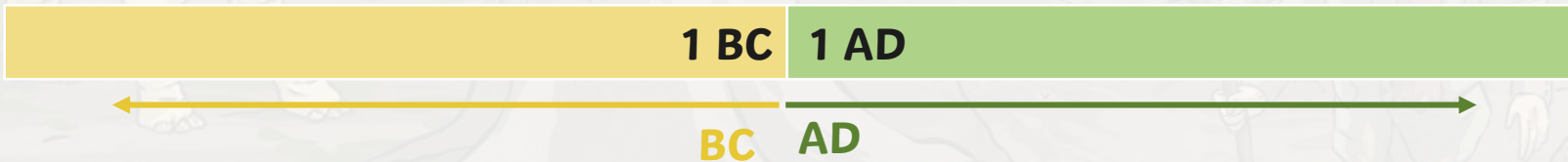
AD refers to the years from year 1 **onwards**.



Did You Know...?

There is no year 0!

The year 1 BC is followed by AD 1.



BC: Before Christ

This refers to any date that is before the year Jesus was born in Christian belief.

So, really Jesus is said to be born in year 1 as the Romans had no sign for '0'.

Rather than say the year before was -1, we say it is 1BC.

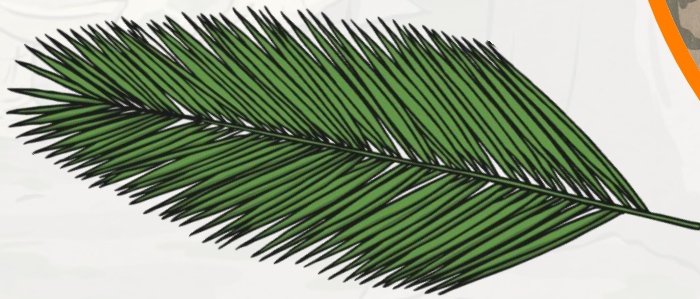


AD: Anno Domini

Anno Domini is a Medieval Latin phrase that means,

'In the year of our Lord'

and means anything after Jesus was born in the Christian belief.



How did the use of these dates spread?

As Christianity grew, Christians travelled around the world and colonised various areas and countries. As they travelled the globe, they used their calendar as they went.



What about Non-Christians?

Even though the counting of years all over the world usually uses this system, other religions do still count dates in their own years...



March

2016

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

How do other religions record dates?

Other religions do still use their own calendar for religious dates:

Muslims count from the migration of Mohammed from Macca to Madinah.

Hebrews count from the Creation.

Calendars for Christians, Jews and Muslims, will be recognised like this:

AD 2017 ("In the Year of the Lord") for Christianity.
AM 5772 ("In the Year of the World") for Judaism.
AH 1433 ("In the Year of the Hijra") for Islam.



What about now, when there are so many different faiths and non-faiths?

Just so people do not get confused, around the world the BC/AD calendar is still used. However, more often than not, its letters have changed a little bit...

BC = BCE

BCE means 'Before the Common Era'

AD = CE

CE means 'Common Era'

'Common Era' basically means the time when we are all counting the same. This is a good way of keeping the same dates but making the letters non-religious.



What can you remember?
Try the BC and AD quiz...



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