

Creating your own class Severn timeline

Below is a list of dates related to the history of the River Severn. Decide with your classmates which date you will take and then you need to represent this on a piece of A4 paper. The date should be written clearly in the top left hand corner, your facts should be included and then pictures should be drawn. Once you have finished their pages, they can be displayed around the classroom to make a 'History of the Severn timeline'.

Date	Event
115,000BC	The last ice age (the Devensian) begins, with ice sheets reaching as far south as the Bristol Channel
10,000BC	As the ice age ends and the ice melts, the Severn's old northward route to the Irish Sea is blocked by glacial debris, so it cuts a new route east and south, creating the Severn Estuary and Bristol Channel.
8,000BC	A Mesolithic hunter loses a large flint tool on the riverside at Woolaston.
1,000BC	A Bronze Age palstave axe is thrown into the River Severn at Wainlodes as a ritual offering.
48	The Roman's XX Legion build a fort on the Severn at Kingsholm.
57	Roman troops from the fort at Chepstow build a lighthouse at Sedbury, near Beachley.
150	A large villa with a stone quay for shipping is built at The Chesters, Woolaston.
370	The Roman's British fleet, the Classis Britannica, builds a supply base at Lydney.
784	Work starts on Offa's Dyke, which runs from Sedbury Cliff, near Beachley.
879	The Viking fleet under Guthrum sails up the Severn to Gloucester and remains for the winter.
914	Vikings land at Lydney and head into the Forest of Dean to attack the tiny kingdom of Archenfield. They are later defeated by Saxons from Hereford and Gloucester.
1071	On the orders of the King, William FitzOsbern builds a castle on the Severn at Gloucester to guard the river crossing.
1154	Work starts on the first Westgate Bridge at Gloucester.
1171	Henry II's sails from Newnham-on-Severn with an army to invade Ireland. Henry's fleet consists of 400 ships and 5,000 troops.
1210	The Severn freezes along much of its length.
1230	The first record of a bridge at Maisemore.
1238	Newnham ferry is first recorded when King Henry III grants an oak tree to the keeper of the ferry to build a new boat.
1346	Flooding occurs along much of the Severn in Gloucestershire.
1378	The King builds a bridge over the Severn from Gloucester Castle to Llanthony Abbey.

1381	An 11-year old girl servant of Simon Baker falls into the river and drowns. Her body is recovered at Cokeyn fish-weir below Gloucester and is buried at Llanthony Abbey.
1429	The type of sailing craft called a 'Severn Trow' is first recorded when Bristol merchants petition the king that their trows had been attacked by pirates from the Forest of Dean at Minsterworth and Westbury-on-Severn.
1471	Whilst trying to cross the Severn at Tewksbury, the Lancastrian army of Margaret of Anjou is defeated by the Yorkist forces of King Edward IV, heralding the end of one phase of the Wars of the Roses.
1483	The 'Duke of Buckingham's Water' flood occurs on the Severn. Many people were reported as being drowned in their beds, as were animals in the fields.
1535	Henry VIII orders that the Severn's ferries were not to 'convey any manner of persons, goodes or cattalles after the son goyng downe till the sonne be up.' This regulation is still in force!
1553	King Henry VIII prohibits elver fishing from the Severn.
1580	Queen Elizabeth I grants a charter establishing Gloucester as a Customs port.
1607	A huge flood, probably a tsunami, hits the Bristol Channel and Severn Estuary, causing widespread devastation. Over Bridge at Gloucester is particularly badly damaged requiring repairs costing £141!
1620	A small whale is caught by fishermen off Berkeley.
1664	During the English Civil War, 17 soldiers drown in the Severn at Newnham whilst crossing the river in a boat.
1660	The 4th-rate frigate Princess, 600 tons and 54 guns, is built at Lydney and becomes the biggest warship ever built on the Severn.
1731	The worst shipping disaster on the Severn takes place when the trow New Newnham strikes a sandbank off the village of Awre and capsizes drowning 17 of the 21 people onboard.
1741	Extreme weather causes extensive flooding along the estuary known as the 'Greate floods'. The village of Woodend at Awre is washed away.
1755	Merchant Robert Pyrke builds a stone built quay at Newnham-on-Severn for use of ships trading between Newnham and London.
1758	The trow Hero of Worcester is wrecked on a sandbank off Shepperdine. She was carrying £40,000 worth of goods bound for Bristol – a cargo worth over £1 million in today's money!
1778	King George II allows elver fishing to resume on the Severn.
1779	The Stroudwater Canal opens with a lock to the Severn
1785	Whilst carrying people returning from Gloucester fete, a ferry sinks at Maisemore drowning 8 people.
1793	Construction starts on the Gloucester to Sharpness canal.
1795	The largest floods ever recorded occur on the River Severn.
1803	The last large ship is built at Newnham-on-Severn.

1810	The Severn Tunnel Company starts digging a tunnel under the Severn between Newnham-on-Severn and Arlingham. The project is abandoned after the river floods the workings in 1812.
1812	Gloucester dock basin opens to shipping using the lock into the Severn.
1813	Lydney's new dock is completed, the upper wharfs being connected to the Severn by a canal.
1818	Works starts on constructing Bullo Pill Dock. When completed it is able to export 1,000 tonnes of coal and stone a day.
1821	Lydney Dock's Outer Harbour is completed. It allows the port to handle 200 ships a year and export an average of 265,000 tonnes of coal annually.
1827	The Gloucester & Sharpness Canal opens, allowing seagoing ships to bypass the most reach Gloucester.
1831	Thomas Telford's famous Over Bridge is opened at Gloucester.
1839	The Aust ferry sinks during a storm, killing all 12 people onboard, as well as 5 horses and a pony.
1849	The Mariners Chapel in Gloucester Docks is built.
1873	Elver fishing is banned on the Severn causing a public outcry.
1874	A major expansion of the docks at Sharpness is completed.
1875	On 3 July, construction work commences on the Severn Railway Bridge.
1876	New laws are passed allowing a resumption of elver fishing in the Severn, but with more strict controls.
1878	The trow Brothers is wrecked after striking one of the piers of the Severn Railway Bridge.
1879	Work is completed on the Severn Railway Bridge and on 3 September, the first passenger train crosses over.
1880	The last tide mill on the Severn, at Broadoak, closes.
1886	The Severn Railway Tunnel opens running for a length of 4.75 miles..
1887	Whilst being towed to Sharpness with a cargo of oil, the Norwegian sailing ship Prinz Victor capsizes in the estuary in a storm. The captain's wife and his 8-year old son are drowned and are later buried at Woolaston.
1916	Cadburys opens a small factory at Frampton on Severn.
1923	Act of Parliament passed prohibiting the spearing of freshwater fish in the Severn.
1926	Bullo Pill Dock closes to commercial shipping.
1928	A severe storm destroys the ferry pier at Aust, causing much disruption to the cross-river traffic.
1938	On 4 February, 3 tanker barges - Severn Pioneer, Severn Traveller and Severn Carrier - get into difficulties trying to enter Sharpness and are swept upriver where they hit with the Severn Railway Bridge. Two of the barges (the Pioneer and Carrier) capsize and sank with the loss of 5 lives. The bridge was undamaged.
1946	The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust opens at Slimbridge.
1947	Severe flooding affects Gloucester after winter snow suddenly thaws.

1951	On Good Friday 23 March, the Egyptian steamship Rameses II with 7000 tons of grain ran aground on a sandbank off Lydney. No lives were lost but the ship broke her back and was declared a total wreck. She was scrapped where she lay which was a process that took 10 years to complete.
1952	The Newnham to Arlingham ferry finally ceases operation after 714 years.
1955	On 21 July Colonel 'Mad Jack' Churchill becomes the first man to ride the Severn Bore on a surfboard.
1957	Construction starts on Oldbury and Berkeley Nuclear Power Stations.
1958	The oil tanker barge Darleydale H collides with Haw Bridge causing it to collapse. The Skipper of the barge is killed.
1960	On the night of 25 October, a thick fog causes 2 tankers, the Arkendale H and Wastedale H, to collide after missing the entrance to Sharpness. The ships are swept upriver by the tide and strike the Severn Railway Bridge, resulting in a huge explosion that causes a span to collapse. Both ships sink, killing 5 men.
1962	On 17 February, the tanker BP Explorer mysteriously capsizes unseen off Sharpness, killing all 5 of her crew. She drifts upstream and hits the damaged Severn Railway Bridge before going ashore at Awre. The ship is salvaged and returned to service as the BP Driver, but is later wrecked in South Wales and declared a total loss.
1966	The Aust to Beachley ferry closes when the Severn Bridge opens.
-	The largest recorded Severn Bore occurs on 15 October, reaching a height of 2.8m (9.2 feet)
1968	Oldbury Nuclear Power Station begins producing electricity for the National Grid.
1970	Demolition work on the Severn Railway Bridge finishes.
1974	The new Westgate Bridge is opened at Gloucester.
1977	Severn Auxiliary Rescue Association [SARA] formed to provide lifeboat cover on the Severn Estuary.
1989	The Severn Way footpath [East Bank] officially opens.
1996	The Second Severn Crossing opens.
2007	90mm of rain falling causes severe flooding on the Severn affecting Gloucester and Tewkesbury and forcing the closure of the Mythe Waterworks, leaving a large part of Gloucestershire without mains water.
2009	The Severn Project – aimed at inspiring creativity along the banks of the Severn - takes place.