Classical Conversations History Timeline Signs and Motions

"What is the best way to memorize the timeline?" The answer to this question depends upon the unique personality and learning style of each individual child. Thankfully, Classical Conversations has provided a number of excellent resources to engage a wide variety of students. While visual learners appreciate the vivid images of the timeline cards, auditory learners enjoy hearing the timeline spoken or sung. For kinesthetic learners, movement and hand motions bring the dates and events to life. Undoubtedly, using multiple pathways will enable the brain to retain, so choose the learning tools that work best for your child and have fun!

Most of the hand motions are actual American Sign Language signs with a few exceptions for words without signs or for signs that might prove difficult for young learners. In some cases, the ASL signs represent what happened in the event rather than a direct translation from the History Acts and Facts cards. The signs chosen for regional people groups represent the signs that ASL signers from those people groups most frequently use. There are some regional variances in ASL much the same way that in the English language, people from different regions may refer to a beverage as pop, soft-drink, soda, or Coke. Feel free to modify the motions for regional differences or simplify the motions to best suit your child's needs and abilities.

The signs seen in the video and described in the printed instructions are presented in a right hand dominant perspective. Right hand signers will follow the written instructions and reverse the signs seen in the video. Those who prefer to sign left-handed can reverse the left/right directions in the written instructions and simply mirror the signs seen in the video. A list of recommended books and online resources are provided at the end of these instructions.

Each sign has 3 components:

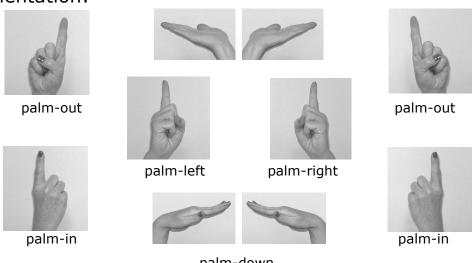
Hand: right or left

Orientation: palm-left, palm-right, palm-up, palm-down,

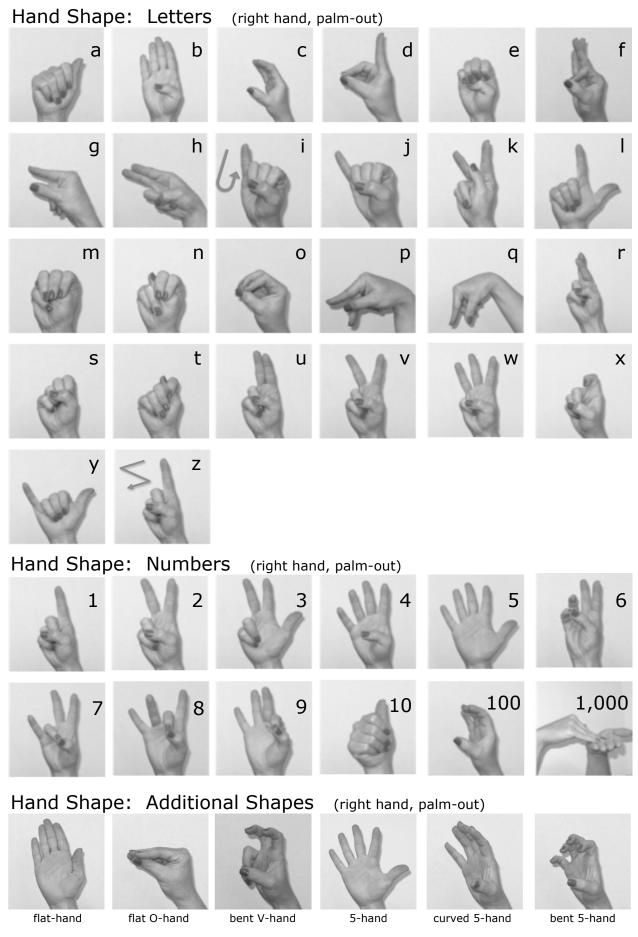
palm-in, or palm-out

Shape: letters, numbers, additional hand shapes

Hand Orientation:



palm-down



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1 Age of Ancient Empires (creation – c. AD 450)

• Ancient: Right palm-left A-hand, begins at chin and moves

down in a wavy fashion (as if tracing an imaginary beard).

2 Creation and the Fall

• Creation: Both arms make a giant circle above the head.

• Fall: Palm-down flat-hands drop down.

3 The Flood and the Tower of Babel

• Flood: Palm-down 5-hands rise up while wiggling fingers.

• Tower: Palms-facing, flat-hands trace the outline of a

tower to the sky.

4 Mesopotamia and Sumer

Mesopotamia means "between rivers."

• Between: Right flat-hand bounces between the 1st and 2nd

fingers of left hand.

• Rivers: Palm-down R-hands move away from body while

bouncing like waves.

5 Egyptians

• Egypt: Right palm-out X-hand, rests against forehead

representing the asp in the headdress of the

pharaohs.

3000 BC 6 Indus River Valley Civilization

• India: Right index finger points to the mid-forehead.

• River: Palm-down R-hands move away from body while

bouncing like waves.

7 Minoans and Mycenaeans

Minoans enjoyed bull jumping. Mycenaeans of Greece worked with gold.

• Minoans: Palm-out Y rests on center of forehead (like a bull).

Mycenaeans: Right index finger points to earlobe. Then right Y-

hand twists back and forth (representing gold).

	8	7 Wonders of the Ancient World	
		• Wonders:	Palm-in 1-hands move in small, alternating circles near the temples.
		• Ancient:	Right palm-left A-hand, begins at chin and moves down in a wavy fashion (as if tracing an imaginary beard).
	9	Patriarchs of Israel	
		• Father:	Thumb of right 5-hand on forehead.
2000 BC	10	10 Hittites and Canaanites	
		Canaanites worshipped Baal, depicted by a bull.	
		• Hittites:	Right fist hits left palm-up flat-hand.
		• Canaanites:	Palm-out Y on the center of forehead (like a bull).
	11 Kush		
		• Kush:	Right K.
	12	Assyrians	
		Assyrians fought with bows and iron-tipped arrows and spears.	
		• Assyrians:	Left A-hand held at arm's length as if grasping an imaginary bow. Right T-hand draws back an imaginary string and releases to launch the arrow.
	13 Babylonians		
		Hammurabi was a famous Babylonian who imposed over 300 laws.	
		• Law:	Left palm-up flat-hand. Right palm-down L touches left fingertips, then left heel of hand.
	14	China's Shang I	Dynasty
		• China:	Right index finger points to left shoulder, moves across chest to point to right shoulder, and moves down to point to right side of waist.
		<u> </u>	

15 Hinduism in India

Hinduism teaches Brahman is the one great spirit.

• Spirit: 9-hands begin with thumbs and index fingers

touching in the middle and then pull apart; left 9-hand moves down and right 9-hand moves up.

• India: Right index finger points to the mid-forehead.

16 Phoenicians and the Alphabet

Phoenicians built ships.

• Ships: Side of right palm-left 3-hand rests on left palm-

up flat-hand. Both move forward in a slight upand-down motion as if riding on the waves.

Alphabet: Right A. Right B.

17 Olmecs of Mesoamerica

Olmecs carved huge stone heads.

Olmecs: Right O-hand traces the outline of your head.

18 Israelite Exodus and Desert Wandering

• Exodus: Palms-facing flat-hands touch in the middle; then

move forward and separate.

• Wandering: Right 1-hand "wanders" from side to side while

moving away from the body.

19 Israelite Conquest and Judges

• Conquest: Right wrist of palm-down S-hand strikes left wrist

of palm-down S-hand.

Judges: Right palm-in S-hand pounds on left palm-up flat-

hand like a gavel banging on a desk.

20 Greek Dark Ages

Dark: Palm-in hands cover eyes.

21 Israel's United Kingdom

• United: Right thumb and index finger link with left thumb

and index finger.

1000 BC

22 Early Native Americans

Native: Right F-hand touches right side of lips and traces a

line to right side of the eye (representing face painting).

23 Israel Divides into Two Kingdoms

• Divides: Flat-hands crossed with right little finger resting

on left index finger. Both hands drop down and

separate.

• Two: Right 2-hand.

24 Homer and Hesiod

Homer: Right H.Hesiod: Left H.

25 Rome Founded by Romulus and Remus

Founded: Right palm-out A-hand arcs up to palm-left and

lands on the back of left S-hand wrist (representing

something being placed where there was nothing before).

• Romulus/Remus: Right R and left R move in alternating circles.

26 Israel Falls to Assyria

• Israel: Right I.

• Falls: Palm-down flat-hands drop down.

• Assyria: Left A-hand held at arm's length as if grasping an

imaginary bow. Right T-hand draws back an

imaginary string and releases to launch the arrow.

27 Assyria Falls to Babylon

• Assyria: Left A-hand held at arm's length as if grasping an

imaginary bow. Right T-hand draws back an imaginary string and releases to launch the arrow.

• Falls: Palm-down flat-hands drop down.

• Babylon (Law): Left palm-up flat-hand. Right palm-down L-hand

touches left fingertips, then left heel of hand.

28 Lao-Tzu, Confucius, Buddha

Lao-Tzu, Confucius, and Buddha were philosophers.

• Philosophers: Right P-hand circles three times near right temple.

29 Judah Falls to Babylon, Temple Destroyed

• Judah: Right J.

• Falls: Palm-down flat-hands drop down.

• Babylon (Law): Left palm-up flat-hand. Right palm-down L-hand

touches left fingertips, then left heel of hand.

• Temple: Heel of T-hand taps left palm-down S-hand.

• Destroyed: Both hands flatten, drop down, and separate.

30 Babylon Falls to Persia

• Babylon (Law): Left palm-up flat-hand. Right palm-down L-hand

touches left fingertips, then left heel of hand.

Falls: Palm-down flat-hands drop down.

Persia: Right P.

31 Jews Return and Rebuild the Temple

Rebuild: Palm-down flat-hands alternately stack on top of

one another as if building.

• Temple: Heel of T-hand taps left palm-down S-hand.

32 Roman Republic

Roman: Right R repeated once.

33 Golden Age of Greece

Golden: Right index finger points to earlobe. Then right Y-

hand twists back and forth.

34 Peloponnesian Wars

The Peloponnesian Peninsula is in Greece.

• Greece: Right palm-left G-hand begins at forehead and

traces the contour of the nose.

Wars: Palm-in curved 5-hands move from side to side

(representing the advance and retreat of contending forces).

35 Persia Falls to Alexander the Great

• Persia: Right P.

Falls: Palm-down flat hands drop down.

Alexander: Right A.

• Great: Palm-out 5-hands move up to the right twice.

36 India's Mauryan Empire

The Mauryan Empire built extensive highways.

• India: Right index finger points to the mid-forehead.

• Highways: Flat hands, palms facing, fingers pointing forward,

move forward in zigzag motion.

37 Mayans of Mesoamerica

Mayans built step pyramids.

Pyramid: Palms-facing flat hands trace the steps up, in, up,

and in to the top of the pyramid.

38 Punic Wars

Punic: Right P.

• Wars: Palm-in curved 5-hands move from side to side

(representing the advance and retreat of contending forces).

•

39 Rome Conquers Greece

Rome: Right R.

Conquers: Right wrist of palm-down S strikes left wrist of

palm-down S.

• Greece: Right palm-left G begins at forehead and traces

the contour of the nose.

40 Roman Dictator Julius Caesar

A dictator is a military ruler.

Dictator: Right flat hand salutes.

• Julius: Right J

41 Caesar Augustus and the Pax Romana

Pax means "peace" in Latin.

Caesar: Right C begins at left shoulder and moves

diagonally to right hip.

• Peace: P-hands, left in front of right begin at chin and

separate downward.

42 John the Baptist

• John: Right J.

• Baptist: Palms-facing A-hands move over the right

shoulder as if baptizing.

43 Jesus the Messiah.

• Jesus: Right bent middle finger touches left palm. Left

bent middle finger touches right palm.

Messiah: Right M begins at left shoulder and moves

diagonally to right hip.

1 AD 44 Pentecost and the Early Church

At Pentecost, "they saw what seemed to be tongues of fire."

• Pentecost: Right index finger touches tongue. Palm-up bent

5s move upward with fluttering fingers

• Church: Right C hand rests on left palm-down S-hand.

45 Persecution Spreads the Gospel

• Persecution: Right S-hand punch crosses in front. Left S-hand

punch crosses in front.

• Gospel: Right palm-left G-hand little finger strikes left

palm-up flat hand twice.

46 Herod's Temple Destroyed by Titus

• Temple: Heel of T taps on back of left palm-down S-hand.

• Destroyed: Flatten both hands and drop down and separate.

• Titus: Right T.

47 Diocletian Divides the Roman Empire

Diocletian: Right D.

• Divides: Flat hands crossed with right little finger resting on

left index finger. Both hands drop down and

separate.

Roman: Right R

48 Constantine Legalizes Christianity

Constantine: Right C.

• Christianity: Right bent middle finger touches left palm. Left

bent middle finger touches right palm.

49 India's Gupta Dynasty

The Gupta Dynasty was known as the Golden Age of India.

• India's: Right index finger points to the mid-forehead.

Golden: Right index finger points to earlobe. Then right Y-

hand twists back and forth.

50 Council of Nicea

The Council of Nicea met to discuss the Trinity.

• Trinity: Begin with right 3-hand behind left palm-in flat

hand. Then pull the right hand down and around

and switch to a 1-hand. (3 in 1)

51 Augustine of Hippo

Augustine converted to Christianity.

• Augustine: Right A.

• converts: Right palm-down A-hand rests on left palm-up A-

hand. Both hands twist 360° until left hand is on

top.

52 Jerome Completes the Vulgate

The Vulgate was a Latin translation of the Bible.

• Jerome: Right J.

Vulgate: Palm-up flat-hands, pinky's touching as if holding

a Bible.

53 Visigoths Sack Rome

Visigoths: Right V.

• Sack: Palm-down hands alternately grab as if pillaging.

Rome: Right R.

54 The Middle Ages (c. 450 - c. 1500)

• Middle Ages: Downturned right fingers of flattened O-hand

move in a small clockwise circle and come to rest

in the center of the left palm-up flat-hand.

55 Council of Chalcedon

At the Council of Chalcedon, they discussed the 2 natures of Jesus.

2 natures: Right 2.

• Christ: Right bent middle finger touches left palm. Left

bent middle finger touches right palm.

56 | Western Roman Empire Falls to Barbarians

Western: Right W begins at right and moves horizontally to

the left (west).

Falls: Palm-down flat-hands drop down.

Barbarians: With a fierce face and elbows out, palm-in fists in

front of waistline.

500 AD

57 Byzantine Emperor Justinian

• Byzantine: Right B.

• Emperor: Right E begins at left shoulder and moves

diagonally to right hip.

• Justinian: Right J.

58 Benedict and Monasticism

• Benedict: Right B.

• Monasticism: M-hands outline the shape of a hood as it comes

up over the head.

59 Muhammad Founds Islam

• Muhammad: Right M.

• Islam: R bent index and middle fingers strike left palm-up

flat hand twice, as if kneeling to pray.

60 Zanj and Early Ghana in Africa

Zanj and Early Ghana were wealthy trading centers.

• Trade: Flat O-hands alternate moving toward and away

from body.

61 Franks Defeat Muslims at the Battle of Tours

• Defeat: Right wrist of palm-down S strikes left wrist of

palm-down S.

Muslims: R index and middle fingers bent strike left palm-up

flat hand twice, as if kneeling to pray.

• Battle: Palm-in 5 hands with curved fingers move from

side to side, representing the advance and retreat

of contending forces.

62 Golden Age of Islam

Golden: Right index finger points to earlobe. Then right Y-

hand twists back and forth.

Islam: Right downturned bent V-hand strikes left palm-up

flat hand twice, as if kneeling to pray.

63 Vikings Raid and Trade

Raid: Palm-down bent 5-hands close into flattened O-

hands as if grabbing something.

• Trade: Flat O-hands alternate moving toward and away

from body.

64 Japan's Heian Period

Japan's Heian Period was similar to Feudalism in Europe.

• Japan: Index fingers and thumbs of palm-in Gs touch in

the middle and then separate outward and close

as if tracing the island.

• Classes: Right palm-down flat-hand, slides right 3-4 times

as it moves up the class system.

65 Charlemagne Crowned Emperor of Europe

• Crowned: C-hands begin above the head and lower the

crown onto the head.

• Emperor: Right E-hand begins at left shoulder and moves

diagonally to right hip.

66 Alfred the Great of England

• Alfred: Right A.

• Great: Palm-out 5-hands move up to the right twice.

• England: Right hand clasps little finger side of left palm-

down A-hand and shakes as if shaking a hand.

67 Erik the Red and Leif Eriksson, Norse Explorers

• Red: Right index finger touches lips.

• Son: Arms cradle an imaginary baby (Erik's son).

• Explorers: Right hand shields eyes while looking left to right.

Left hand shields eyes while looking right to left.

68 Vladimir I of Kiev

• Vladimir: Right V.

• First: Right palm-left 1 turns to plam-in.

• Kiev: Right K.

69 Byzantine Emperor Basil II

Byzantine: Right B.

• Emperor: Right E-hand begins at left shoulder and moves

diagonally to right hip.

Basil: Right B.

• Second: Right palm-left 2 turns to palm-in.

1000 AD

70 East-West Schism of the Church

• East-West: Place palm-down left flat-hand next to palm-down

right flat-hand. Slide hands apart.

71 Norman Conquest and Feudalism in Europe

• Conquest: Right wrist of palm-down S strikes left wrist of

palm-down S.

• Feudalism: Right palm-down flat-hand, slides right 3-4 times

as it moves up the class system.

72 The Crusades

• Crusades: Index fingers make a cross over your heart. Move

cross forward (as if going into a holy battle).

73 Zimbabwe and Early Mali in Africa

Zimbabwe means "enclosure or wall of stone." Mali dominated gold trade.

• Wall: Palm-out B-hands begin with index fingers

touching and spread apart to form a wall.

Mali: Right M.

Gold: Right index finger points to earlobe. Then right Y-

hand twists back and forth.

74 Aztecs of Mesoamerica

• Aztecs Index fingers form the peak of a pyramid and then

trace the shape of the pyramid moving down and

out and back to the middle.

75 Francis of Assisi and Thomas Aquinas

Francis: Right F.Thomas: Right T.

76 Japan's Shoguns

Japan's shoguns were military dictators. In the song, you can hear the sword.

• Shoguns: Right hand draws an imaginary sword from left

sided sheath.

77 Incas of South America

Incas lived in the Andes Mountains.

• Incas: Angled flat-hands form a mountain with fingers

touching in the middle.

78 Genghis Khan Rules the Mongols

A khan was a military dictator.

• Genghis: Right G.

• Khan: Right palm-down flat hand salutes.

79 England's Magna Carta

Magna Carta means "Great Charter."

• England's: Right hand clasps little finger side of left palm-

down A-hand and shakes as if shaking a hand.

Magna: Palm-out 5-hands move up to the right twice.
 Carta: Left palm-out flat hand held up by head as if

swearing and oath while Right C touches left

fingers and then left elbow.

80 Ottoman Empire

Ottoman: Right O traces the shape of Turkey.

81 Marco Polo's Journey to China

• Marco Polo: Cover eyes. Uncover eyes.

• China: Right index finger points to left shoulder, moves

across chest to point to right shoulder, and moves

down to point to right side of waist.

82 The Hundred Years' War and Black Death

Hundred Years: Right 1 then C. (1 century = 100 years)

• War: Palm-in curved 5-hands move from side to side

(representing the advance and retreat of contending forces).

• Black Death: Both hands grab neck.

83 The Renaissance

Renaissance means "rebirth."

• Birth: Right palm-in flat hand begins at stomach, turns

palm-up, and moves forward to rest on palm-up

left palm.

84 China's Ming Dynasty

China's Ming Dynasty built a majority of the Great Wall.

• China's: Right index finger points to left shoulder, moves

across chest to point to right shoulder, and moves

down to point to right side of waist.

Build: Palm-down flat-hands alternately stack on top of

one another as if building.

85 Age of Exploration (c. 1400 – c. 1600)

• Exploration: Right hand shields eyes while looking left to right.

Left hand shields eyes while looking right to left.

86 Prince Henry Founds School of Navigation

• Prince: Right P begins at left shoulder and moves

diagonally to right hip.

• Navigation: Both hands steer the wheel of the boat.

87 Slave Trade in Africa

Slave: Palm-down S-hands crossed at wrists.

88 Gutenberg's Printing Press

• Gutenberg's: Right G.

• Printing: Right G rests on left palm-up flat hand. Right

index finger and thumb close, open, close.

89 | Songhai in Africa

The Songhai traded gold with the Berbers.

Gold: Right index finger points to earlobe. Then right Y-

hand twists back and forth.

90 Czar Ivan the Great of Russia

• Ivan: Right I.

• Great: Palm-out 5-hands move up to the right twice.

Russia: Palm down 5 hands swing repeatedly in toward

the hips contacting at the midpoints between thumbs and index fingers (reminiscent of the Cossack

dance).

91 The Spanish Inquisition

The Spanish Inquisition was a court held by the church.

• Spanish: Curved index fingers touch the shoulders and then

move in to interlock (representing a bullfighter's cape

fastened across the chest).

• Court: Right palm-in S pounds on left palm-up flat-hand

like a gavel banging on a desk.

92 Columbus Sails to the Caribbean

• Columbus: Right C.

• Sails (Ship): Right 3-hand; little finger rests on left palm-up

flat-hand. Both move forward while bouncing on

the waves.

1500 AD

93 Age of Absolute Monarchs (c. 1500 – c. 1800)

• Monarchs: C-hands begin above the head and lower the

crown onto the head.

94 Protestant Reformation

• Reformation: R-hands with right fingers pointing left, left fingers

pointing right, and wrists touching. Wrists continue to touch while twisting to reverse hand position. Left palm-down R-hand ends on top.

95 Spanish Conquistadors in the Americas

Conquistadors were volunteer soldiers and explorers.

• Spanish: Curved index fingers touch the shoulders and then

move in to interlock (representing a bullfighter's cape

fastened across the chest).

• Conquistadores: Right palm-down flat hand salutes. Then right

hand shields eyes while looking left to right.

96 Calvin's Institutes of the Christian Religion

Calvin's Institutes outlined the key beliefs of Protestants.

Calvin's: Right C

• Institutes: Right index finger touches forehead and drop to

clasp hands.

• Christian: Right bent middle finger touches left palm. Left

bent middle finger touches right palm.

97 Council of Trent

Council of Trent was a meeting of Catholic Bishops to reform the Catholic Church from within.

Reformation: See sign for card 94.

• In: Fingertips of right flattened O-hand enter left

palm-right O-hand.

98 Baroque Period of the Arts

The Baroque Period was marked by excessive decorations.

• Decoration: Palm-out flattened O-hands alternately twist while

putting up decorations.

99 Japan's Isolation

• Japan's: Index fingers and thumbs of palm in Gs touch in

the middle and then separate outward and close.

• Isolation: Palm-in 1 positioned away from the body draws a

clockwise circle twice.

100 Jamestown and Plymouth Colony Founded

Jamestown colonists first sought gold. Pilgrims founded Plymouth.

• Jamestown: Right index finger points to earlobe. Then right Y-

hand twists back and forth.

• Plymouth: P-hands begin at center of the chest, moving out

and then up, to trace the traditional collar

associated with the Pilgrims.

• Founded: Right palm-out A-hand arcs up to palm-left and

lands on the back of left S-hand wrist (representing

something being placed where there was nothing before).

101 Age of Enlightenment (c. 1650 – c. 1800)

The Age of Enlightenment focused on the power of human reason.

• Reason: Right index finger moves in small circles near the

temple.

102 Hudson's Bay Company

Hudson's: Right H.

Bay: Right palm-out B outlines the curve of palm-down

open B-hand from the index finger to the thumb,

ending in right palm-in B.

103 First Great Awakening

• First: Right 1.

• Awakening: A-hands near eyes open to L-hands.

104 Classical Period of the Arts

The Classical Period was characterized by simplicity and order.

• Order: Palms-facing flat-hands, slightly separated with

fingers pointing away from body, move in unison with a slight up-down motion from left to right.

105 The Seven Years' War

• Seven: Right 7.

War: Palm-in curved 5-hands move from side to side

(representing the advance and retreat of contending forces).

106 Age of Industry (c. 1760 – c. 1969)

• Industry: Palm-in curved 5-hands, fingers interlock and

bounce twice, representing the gears in an engine.

107 James Cook Sails to Australia and Antarctica

• James Cook: Right J. Right C.

• Sails: Side of right palm-left 3-hand rests on left palm-

up flat hand. Both move forward in a slight upand-down motion as if riding on the waves.

108 American Revolution and General George Washington

• Revolution: Palm-in R-hands, fingertips pointing at each other

are held with right above left. The R-fingers spin around each other in a sudden and dramatic

movement.

• General: The right G-hand is placed on the right shoulder

and moves down an inch representing the insignia

of rank.

109 Madison's Constitution and the Bill of Rights

• Constitution: Left palm-out flat-hand held up by head as if

swearing and oath while right C touches left

fingers and then left elbow.

Rights: Right palm-left flat-hand slides across left palm-up

flat hand and curves up.

110 French Revolution

• French: Right F turned inward to palm-in.

• Revolution: Palm-in R-hands, fingertips pointing at each other

are held with right above left. The R-fingers spin around each other in a sudden and dramatic

movement.

111 Second Great Awakening

Second: Right 2.

Awakening: A-hands near eyes open to L-hands.

112 Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition

• Purchase: Right palm-up flattened O-hand takes money from

left palm-up flat-hand and offers it forth as if

purchasing something.

• Expedition: Left palm-down flat-hand shields eyes while

looking right to left and then R index finger points

toward the northwest.

113 Napoleon Crowned Emperor of France

• Napoleon: Right N.

• Emperor: Right E-hand begins at left shoulder and moves

diagonally to right hip.

• France: Right F turned inward to palm-in.

114 Liberation of South America

• Liberation: Palm-in S-hands crossed at wrists. Arms twist and

pull apart as if you are breaking free from being

tied up.

• South: Right S hand is moved straight down, indicating

the direction of south on a map.

115 | The War of 1812

The War of 1812 was won at Fort McHenry with "bombs" bursting in air.

War: Palm-in curved 5-hands move from side to side

(representing the advance and retreat of contending forces).

• Bombs: Palm-down S-hands at midline raise up, pull apart,

and burst into 5-hands at head level.

116 The Missouri Compromise

• Compromise: Index finger points to right forehead. Then both

palm-down index fingers pointing away from the

body come together at midline.

117 | Immigrants Flock to America

• Immigrate: Right palm-down flat-hand moves diagonally

under left palm-down flat-hand as if going in or

entering.

• America: The fingers of both hands are interlocked and

move in a semi-circle from left to right in front of

the body.

118 The Monroe Doctrine

The Monroe Doctrine stated that since the US had "expanded" from sea to shining sea, it would consider any European attempts to form colonies to be acts of aggression.

• Expand: Palm-facing A-hands open into 5-hands as they

pull apart as if expanding to fill the continent.

119 Romantic Period of the Arts

The Romantic Period was characterized by emotions.

• Sad: Palm-in 5-hands arc down near face while

frowning.

Happy: Palm-in 5-hands arc up next to face while smiling.

120 Cherokee Trail of Tears

• Cherokee: Right F touches right side of lips and traces a line

to right side of the eye.

• Tears: Right palm-in 4-hand, fingers pointing left moves

down and up in front of right eye.

121 U.S. Westward Expansion

West: Right W moves across the body toward the left to

show the direction of west.

122 Marx Publishes the Communist Manifesto

• Communist: Right palm-out fist is raised above the line of

vision in the communist salute.

• Writing: Right hand writes on left palm-up flat hand.

123 The Compromise of 1850 and the Dred Scott Decision

The U.S. Supreme Court decided that Dred Scott was still a slave.

• Compromise: Index finger points to right forehead. Then both

palm-down 1-hands come together at midline.

• Slave: Slave: Wrist of palm-down S-hand rests on wrist

of palm-down left hand.

124 U.S. Restores Trade With Japan

• U.S.: The fingers of both hands are interlocked and

move in a semi-circle from left to right in front of

the body.

• Trade: Flattened O-hands alternate moving toward and

away from body.

• Japan: Index fingers and thumbs of palm in Gs touch in

the middle and then separate outward and close.

125 British Queen Victoria's Rule Over India

• British: Right hand clasps little finger side of left palm-

down flat hand and shakes as if shaking a hand.

Victoria: Right V

• Rule: Palms-facing A-hands move alternately back and

forth as if holding the reins over all.

• India: Right index finger points to the mid-forehead.

126 Darwin Publishes *The Origin of Species*

• Origin: Right index finger rests between left index and

middle fingers and turns clockwise to indicate the

turning of a key in an ignition switch.

127 Lincoln's War Between the States

• Lincoln: Right L

• War: Palm-in curved 5-hands move from side to side

(representing the advance and retreat of contending forces).

128 Reconstruction of the Southern States

Reconstruct: Palm-down flat-hands are placed repeatedly on

top of each other to represent something being

built.

• Southern: Right S-hand moves from shoulder height down to

waist height.

129 Dominion of Canada

• Canada: Right hand grasps the lapel of an overcoat to

represent the heavy coat that would be worn

during the cold Canadian winters.

130 Otto von Bismarck Unifies Germany

Unify: Right thumb and index finger link with left thumb

and index finger.

• Germany: Right and left palm-in five hands cross at wrists

and fingers wiggle to indicated the feathers of the double-eagle emblem on the old German empire

flag before unification.

131 Boer Wars in Africa

• Boer: Right B.

Wars: Palm-in curved 5-hands move from side to side

(representing the advance and retreat of contending forces).

132 The Spanish American War

Spanish: Right S.American: Right A.

War Palm-in curved 5-hands move from side to side

(representing the advance and retreat of contending forces).

133 | The Progressive Era

• Progress: Palms-facing hands in right-angle position with

right hand slightly behind the left. Right moves up, over, and forward. Then left follows suit.

134 Australia Becomes a Commonwealth

• Australia: Palm-down 8-hands. Flick out the middle fingers

of both hands twice. (Native Australian sign)

135 Mexican Revolution

• Mexican: The fingertips of U-hands trace a large moustache

on the upper lip.

• Revolution: Palm-in R-hands, fingertips pointing at each other

are held with right above left. The R-fingers spin around each other in a sudden and dramatic

movement.

136 World War I and President Wilson

• World War I Right W. Right W. Right 1.

• Pres. Wilson: Palms-facing Gs held in front of eyes move

outward and close as if tracing the outline of

glasses.

137 Lenin and the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia

Lenin: Right L.Revolution: See 135

• Russia: Palm down 5 hands swing repeatedly in toward

the hips contacting at the midpoints between

thumbs and index fingers.

138 U.S. Evangelist Billy Graham

• US Evangelist Palm-in index fingers begin at edges of the lips

and swing out in arcs ending palm-out.

• Billy Graham: Right B. Right G.

139 Modern Period of the Arts

The Modern Period was characterized by individual thought creating random works of art.

• Individual: Palms-facing flat hands move straight down in

front of body to indicate the sides of a single

person.

• Random: Right palm-down claw hand begins above left

palm-up claw hand at left side of body. Both move in alternating circles as they slide toward

the right.

140 The Great Depression and the New Deal

• Depression: Palm-down flat hands push down twice.

• Deal: Left hand holds imaginary deck of cards while

right hand deals imaginary cards.

141 World War II and President FDR

World War II: Right W. Right W. Right 2.
FDR: Right F. Right D. Right R.

142 Stalin of the USSR and the Katyn Massacre

• Stalin: Thumb and index finger of both hands outline his

large mustache.

• Massacre: Right index finger sweeps past under left palm-out

flat hand as if stabbing someone. Then both palm-down curved 5-hands side by side move forward and down representing the many people

that were killed.

143 The United Nations Formed

United: Right thumb and index finger link with left thumb

and index finger.

144 The Cold War

• Cold: Shoulders hunched forward and fist-hands shake

as if cold.

• War: Palm-in curved 5-hands move from side to side

(representing the advance and retreat of contending forces).

145 Gandhi and India's Independence

Gandhi: Right G.

• India's: Right index finger points to the mid-forehead.

• Independence: Palm-in I-hands crossed at wrists in front of chest

arc out to palm-out I-hands shoulder width apart.

146 Jewish State Established

• Jewish: Right palm-in flat O-hand begins at chin and

strokes the imaginary beard of Jewish Patriarchs.

• State: Left palm-out flat-hand held up at head height.

Right palm-out S-hand touches left fingertips, then left

heel of hand.

147 Mao and Communist Victory in China

Mao: Right M.

• Communist: Right palm-out fist is raised above the line of

vision in the communist salute.

• China: Right index finger points to left shoulder, moves

across chest to point to right shoulder, and moves

down to point to right side of waist.

148 North Atlantic Treaty Organization

• NATO: Right N. Right A. Right T. Right O.

149 The Korean War

Korean: Right K.

• War: Palm-in curved 5-hands move from side to side

(representing the advance and retreat of contending forces).

150 | Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement

The Civil Rights Movement fought for personal liberty for blacks.

• MLK: Right M. Right L. Right K.

• Rights: Right palm-left flat-hand slides across left palm-up

flat hand and curves up.

151 Jim and Elisabeth Elliot, Missionaries to Ecuador

• Elliot: Right E.

• Missionaries: Right M-hand is circled near the heart.

Ecuador: Right E rests on palm-down B and moves back and

forth at wrist.

152 The Antarctic Treaty

• Antarctic (Cold): Arms with palms-facing S-hands pull in tight to

body and shake.

153 The Vietnam War

Vietnam: Right V.

• War: Palm-in curved 5-hands move from side to side

(representing the advance and retreat of contending forces).

154 U.S. Astronauts Walk on the Moon

• Astronauts: Right R shoots up past left palm-in flat hand.

Then palms-facing flat hands move straight down in front of body to indicate the sides of a single

person.

• Walk/Moon: Right index and middle fingers walk across palm

down S-hand, which represents the moon.

155 Age of Information and Globalization (c. 1970 – present)

Computers spawned the information age. The internet and telecommunications spread ideas through a worldwide connection.

- Information (Computer): Type on an imaginary computer.
- Globalization: Five-hands move out and around as if tracing a

globe (representing the spread of ideas around the world).

156 Watergate, President Nixon Resigns

A special investigations unit broke into the Watergate Complex.

• Spy: Hold left palm-facing-right flat hand at head

height (representing the Watergate complex). Right palm down V (representing a pair of eyes) moves forward past

the left forearm as if peering past.

157 | Fall of Communism in Eastern Europe

• Fall: Palm-down flat hands drop down.

• Communism: Right palm-out fist is raised above the line of

vision in the communist salute.

• Europe: Right E circles near temple.

158 European Union Formed

• European: Right E circles near temple.

• Union: Thumb and index finger of both hands link

together and move in a horizontal circle to

represent working together.

159 Apartheid Abolished in South Africa

Apartheid is the Afrikaans word meaning "apartness."

• Apart: Palm-in thumbs-up A hands begin midline with

knuckles touching and then pull apart.

• Abolished: Left palm-up flat hand held higher than right

palm-down flat hand shoulder width apart. Right palm-down flat hand moves on top of left palm-up hand. Both hands close to A hands as the right is

pulled back forcefully to its original position.

2000 AD

160 September 11, 2001

On September 11, 2011, the World Trade Center Twin Towers were destroyed.

• Sept. 11, 2001: Palms-facing flat hands held shoulder width apart

at head level. The right fingers wiggle as they fall.

Then the left fingers wiggle as they fall.

161 Rising Tide of Freedom

• Freedom: Palm-in S hands crossed at the wrists in front of

the chest, twist and pull shoulder width apart.

Repeat in front of head.

Recommended Resources:

Books:

- The Joy of Signing by Lottie L. Riekehof
- American Sign Language by Martin L.A. Sternberg
- Signing Exact English by Gerilee Gustason and Esther Zawolkow

Online ASL Video Dictionaries:

- http://www.signingsavvv.com/
- http://www.aslpro.com/
- http://aslbrowser.commtechlab.msu.edu/browser.htm

Online Alphabet, Numbers, and Handshape Images:

- http://www.buzzle.com/articles/sign-language-for-kids.html
- http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/fingerspelling/images/abc1280x960.png
- http://gupress.gallaudet.edu/excerpts/ASLHSpic1.html
- http://gupress.gallaudet.edu/excerpts/ASLHSpic2.html

Online Country Signs:

• http://www.aslresource.net/CountrySigns.html