Intervals on a Timeline

When creating a timeline, the interval or number of years between each date must be equal. This interval will vary depending on the length of the time period that the timeline covers.

An easy way to think about the interval being used on a timeline is "What are we counting by?"

On this timeline, there are 10 years between each date on the timeline, therefore the interval is 10 years. You can also think of it as "We're counting by 10 years."
What interval is being used on each timeline?
Span

The span of a timeline is the amount of time from the beginning to the end of the timeline.

On a timeline where all the dates are A.D. (CE), you can find the span by simply subtracting the earliest date (smallest #), from the most recent date (largest #)

\[ 1980 - 1920 = 60 \text{ years} \]

The span of this timeline is \textbf{60 years} (notice that the label for span is \textit{years})
Find the span of each timeline.
On a timeline where all the dates are B.C. (BCE), you can use the same method to find the span. Simply subtract the most recent date (smallest #), from the earliest date (largest #)

Earliest Date  Most Recent Date
85 B.C.  85 B.C.  80 B.C.  75 B.C.  70 B.C.  65 B.C.  60 B.C.  55 B.C.

85 - 55
30 years

The span of this timeline is 30 years
For each timeline, find the interval and span.

Interval: __________
Span: __________

Interval: __________
Span: __________

Interval: __________
Span: __________
Let's Review:

To find the span of a timeline when the dates are all A.D. or all B.C. (Same label), you **subtract** the biggest number from the smallest number.
What happens when we have a timeline that has both B.C. and A.D. dates?

If we try to subtract the numbers at the beginning and end of the timeline, we would end up with 0 years (300-300). Obviously, the timeline does not cover 0 years!

Remember, there is no "0" year on a timeline. We use 1 A.D. in place of a "0".
Instead of subtracting, we need to think of this as 2 separate timelines-- one with B.C. dates, and one with A.D. dates.

From 300 B.C. to 1 A.D. (think 0), is 300 years (300-0=300)

From 1 A.D. (think 0) to 300 A.D., is 300 years (300-0=300)

Remember, there is no "0" year on a timeline. We use 1 A.D. in place of a "0". We will treat as a "0" when we figure out the span, though.
To figure out the span of the entire timeline, we need to **ADD** the 2 parts together!

\[ 300 + 300 = 600 \text{ years} \]

So, the span of this timeline is 600 years.
Let's try some more!

4000 years + 2000 years = 6000 years

Notice that when dates are between 1000 and 9999, we do NOT use commas!
(sh! Don’t tell your math teacher!)
However, starting at 10,000 you do need a comma.

The span is: 4000 + 2000 = 6000 years
Remember--think 0