

Where the Wood Meets the Metal



Pencil Timeline

- A. The unsharpened end of the pencil represents the earliest documented existence of people in the area known as the Great Basin. The skeletal remains of a male human, known as Sprit Cave Man, was found in 1940 in central Nevada. The remains were held by the Nevada State Museum and carbon dated in 1996 as being approximately 9400 years old. An unsharpened pencil makes a loose approximation of a timeline demonstrating the existence of people in the Great Basin, important events in American history, and the interactions between the original people of the Great Basin and others.
- B. The eraser end of the pencil represents the present
- C. The banded area of the pencil (where the eraser is joined to the wood) represents commonly-accepted events of importance.
 - a. Where the wood meets the metal: Landing of Christopher Columbus in San Salvador (in what is now The Bahamas) in 1492.
 - i. Christopher Columbus never set foot on what is now known as the United States of America.
 - b. Bands along the first half of the metal: 1607 Jamestown Settlement, 1620 Plymouth Colony, 1776 Declaration of Independence (The halfway point of the metal represents approximately 250 years ago)
 - i. All of these events occurred far from and without the knowledge of the people of the Great Basin
 - c. Bands along the second half of the metal, approaching the eraser: 1845 John Fremont
 - i. This is the approximate time when the original people of the Great Basin had contact with “others”
 - d. IMPORTANT NOTE: The wood part of the pencil continues beneath the metal band but since it is covered, it is often overlooked that it still exists underneath.