

## What is a Century?

A century is a unit of time that spans 100 years. It is commonly used to categorize historical events, trends, and periods. Understanding centuries helps us to organize and comprehend the vast timeline of human history.

## How are Centuries Counted?

1. **Basic Definition:** A century consists of 100 years. For example, the period from 1901 to 2000 is the 20th century.
2. **Starting Point:** Centuries are typically counted starting from year 1. So, the 1st century includes the years 1 to 100.
3. **Subsequent Centuries:** Each subsequent century begins the year after the last. Thus, the 2nd century encompasses the years 101 to 200, and so forth.

## How to Determine the Century from a Year

1. If the year is divisible by 100, that year is the last year of a century. For example, the year 2000 is the last year of the 20th century.
2. If the year is not divisible by 100, divide the year by 100 and round up to the next whole number to determine the century. For example, the year 2001 divided by 100 equals 20.01, so this is the 21st century.

## Examples of Centuries in History

- **1st Century (1-100 AD):** The time of early Christianity.
- **5th Century (401-500 AD):** Fall of the Western Roman Empire.
- **15th Century (1401-1500 AD):** The Renaissance period begins in Italy.
- **20th Century (1901-2000 AD):** Major world events, including two World Wars and the Cold War.

## Conclusion

Understanding centuries is crucial for grasping the context of historical events and developments. By knowing how to count and categorize centuries, you can better appreciate the timeline of human history and its significant milestones.