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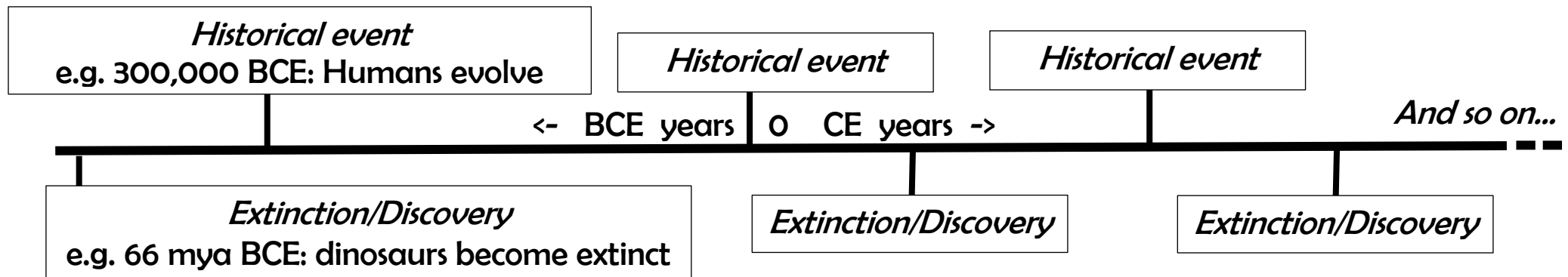
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Extinction – Found and Lost

Countless animals have lived in earth's history, and new ones are often discovered! But some have since gone *extinct* or died out, sometimes because of humans, sometimes not. The history of discoveries and extinctions can be quite confusing! Can you put these events in order, to make a timeline?

Cut out/write out the events and put them in order (Use the dates to help you, if you want to see if you can work it out *without* the dates, then use the boxes on the following page). Use the historical events to base your timeline around. When do you think the extinctions and discoveries fit compared to them?

Your timeline should look something like this, with historical events on top, extinctions/discoveries below:



Use these historical events to base your timeline around:

300,000 BCE: modern humans first evolved.	2560 BCE: The Great Pyramid of Giza is built in Egypt.	43 CE: The Romans invade Britain.	1066 CE: The Normans conquer Britain.	1509 CE: Henry VIII crowned King of England.	1837 CE: Queen Victoria's reign begins.	1945 CE: The Second World War ends.	2012 CE: Voyager spacecraft leaves the solar system.
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Events with the dates: Key: CE = 'common era' e.g. this year is 2021 CE, BCE = 'before common era', MYA = million years ago

1936 CE: The last Tasmanian tiger dies in Hobart zoo.

1835 CE: Charles Darwin visits the Galapagos Islands. He notes the different tortoise species.

2021 CE: Tiny 13mm long chameleon discovered: the world's smallest reptile.

66 MYA BCE: The dinosaurs die out in a mass extinction, alongside many other animals.

2012 CE: 'Lonesome George', the last Pinta Island Galapagos tortoise, dies.

1488 CE: First European sighting of a penguin.

1901 CE: The okapi, a giraffe relative, is first described by scientists.

1650 BCE: After hanging on after the ice age, the last woolly mammoths die out.

1792 CE: First definite sighting of a 'Tasmanian tiger'/thylacine by Europeans.

1598 CE: Portuguese sailors discover the dodo after landing on Mauritius.

43 CE: First elephant ever seen by Britain, brought by the Romans.

10,000 BCE: The sabre-toothed cat Smilodon becomes extinct.

1662 CE: The last sighting of the dodo is made by a shipwrecked Dutch sailor.

300 CE: The North African elephant becomes extinct.

1798 CE: The platypus is discovered by Europeans. They call it a fake!

1555 CE: First European sighting of a sloth by Spanish explorers.

1100 CE: The Normans bring rabbits to Britain for the first time.

1852 CE: Last sighting of the once common Great Auk.

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Events without the dates – how close can you get to the correct timeline? (Just for a fun challenge – do not be upset if they are all in the wrong places: this is almost impossible to puzzle out!)

The last 'Tasmanian tiger'/thylacine dies in Hobart zoo.

Charles Darwin sees tortoises in the Galapagos Islands.

Tiny 13mm long, chameleon discovered – the world's smallest reptile.

The dinosaurs die out in a mass extinction, alongside many other animals.

'Lonesome George', the last Pinta Island Galapagos tortoise, dies.

First European sighting of a penguin.

The okapi, a giraffe relative, is first described by scientists.

After hanging on after the ice age, the last woolly mammoths die out.

First definite sighting of a 'Tasmanian tiger'/thylacine by Europeans.

Portuguese sailors discover the dodo after landing on Mauritius.

First elephant ever seen by Britain, brought by the Romans.

The sabretoothed cat Smilodon becomes extinct.

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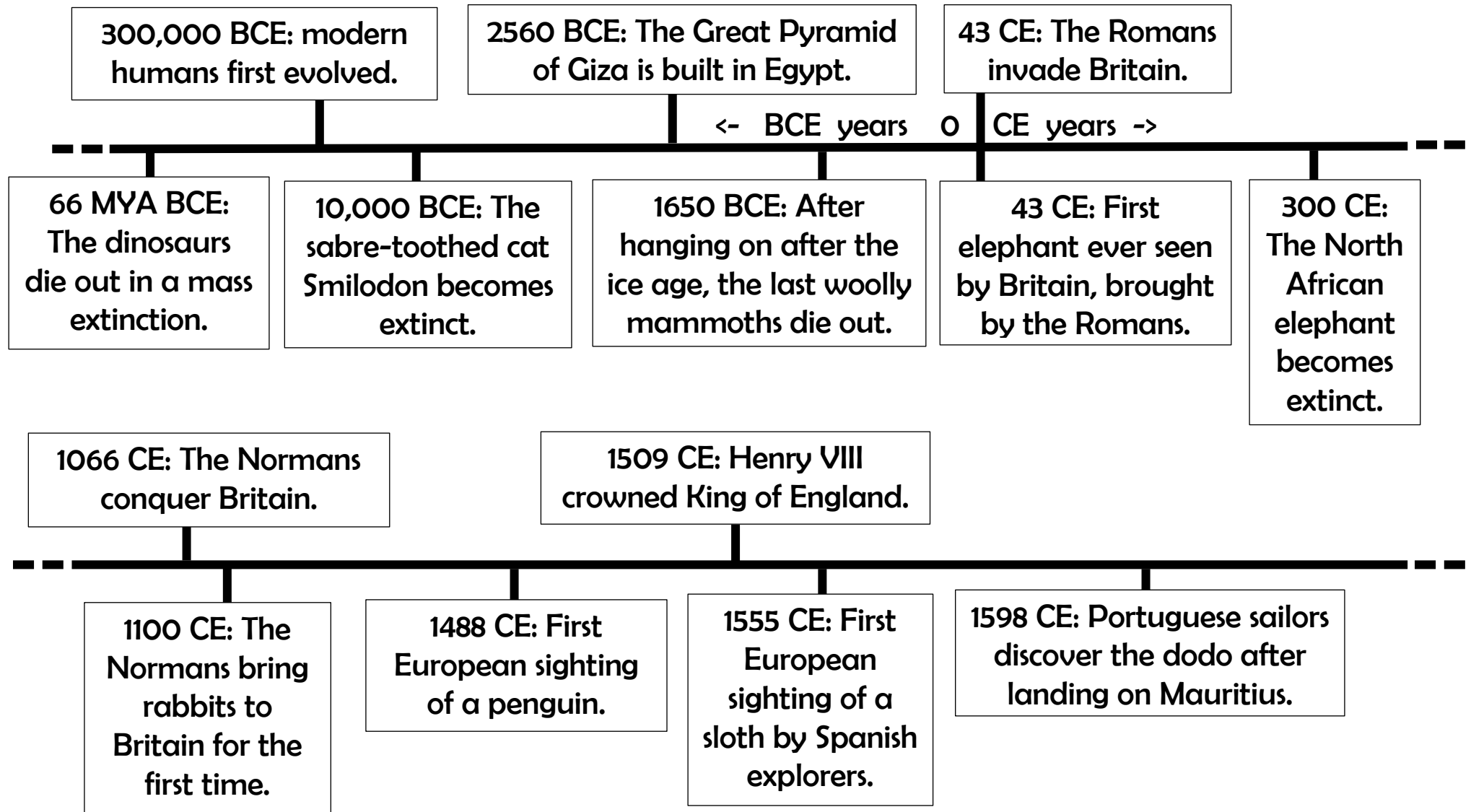
The Normans bring rabbits to Britain for the first time.

Last sighting of the once common Great Auk.

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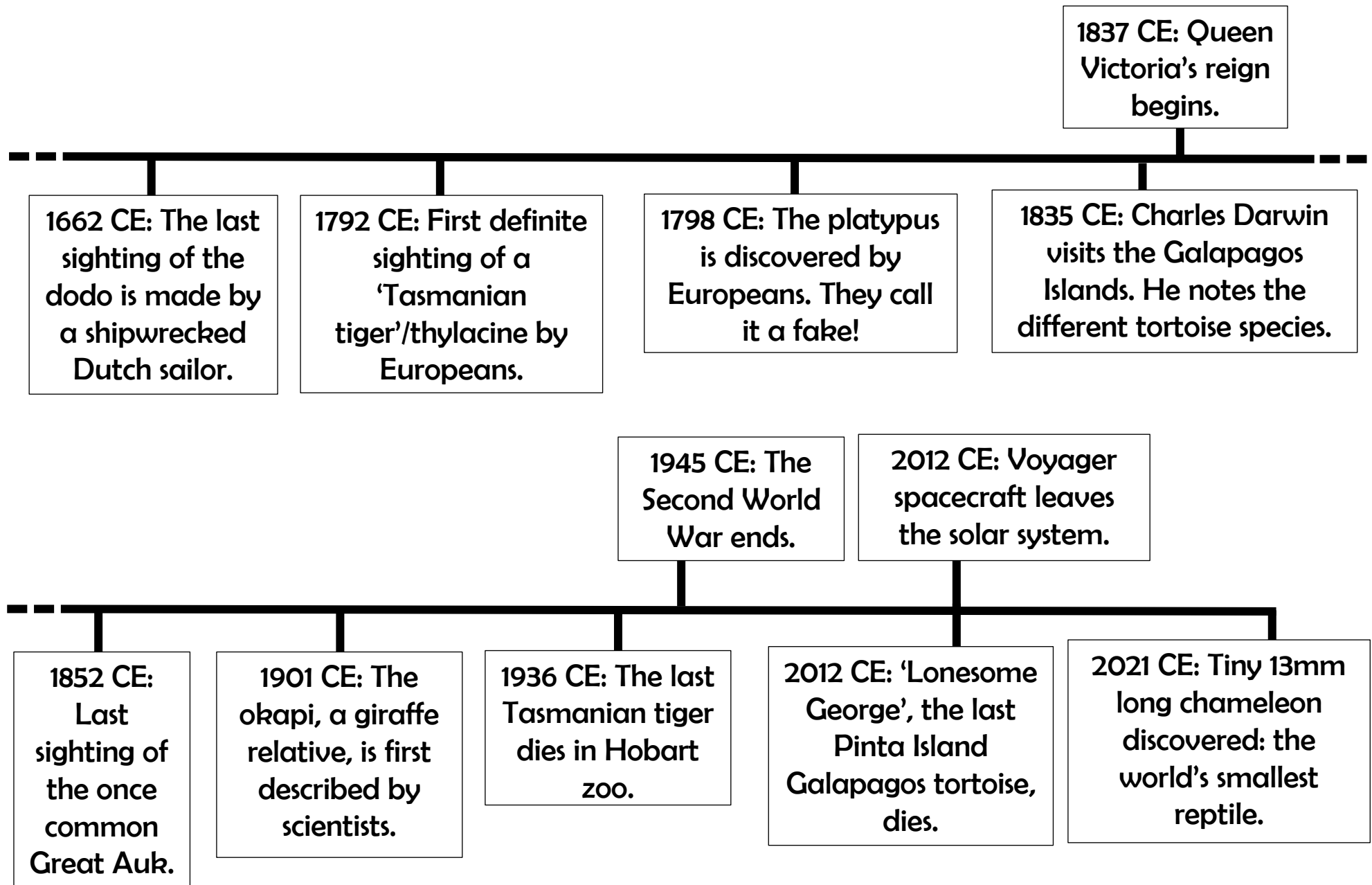
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Your timeline should look like this (we have split ours up to make it clearer, please read from left to right on each line). Did you put them in the right order? Did the timeline order surprise you at all?



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Did you notice...

- ...That the dinosaurs died out long before humans evolved?
 - The dinosaur extinction is the most famous mass extinction, but it was not the worst in the earth's history. That was the Permian mass extinction millions of years before. It is believed we are in the 6th mass extinction at the moment.
- ...That the dodo became extinct less than 100 years after its discovery?
 - It was not afraid of humans and was easily hunted. But many accounts said that it did not taste nice, so animals that came with humans, like rats, probably caused its extinction.
- ...That mammoths still existed during ancient times, after the Egyptians?
 - These mammoths were a small population that managed to survive on a small island.
- ...That most of these are based on European discoveries?
 - European explorers may have claimed to discover them, but these animals, such as the okapi, were known to local people at the time. Other discoveries are made by shipwrecked sailors. Animals like the dodo had survived undiscovered for centuries as they only lived in remote places that were hard to get to or not yet discovered.
- ...That there are still new discoveries being made all the time?
 - There are still many animals yet to be discovered, as shown by the new chameleon species. History shows us that animals can go extinct soon after they are discovered, often thanks to human actions. Hopefully now we know better and can work to protect and conserve them and extinction itself will die out.