

A01: Cryptoeconomics Timeline Challenge

Trace the History of Decentralized Systems

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Learning Objectives

- Identify key milestones in the evolution of cryptoeconomics
- Understand chronological dependencies between events
- Analyze which moments were most pivotal and why
- Make evidence-based predictions about future developments
- Practice collaborative problem-solving and presentation skills

Assignment Details

- Time: 40 min activity + 5 min presentation
- Format: Groups of 3–5 students
- Difficulty: Easy
- Points: 50

Key Deliverables

- Photo of completed timeline
- Written document (1–2 pages): chronological order, 3 pivotal moments, future prediction

A01:

digital-ai-finance.github.io/crypto-economics/assignments/A01.timeline.challenge/instructions.html

Steps

- 1 Receive your set of 15 timeline event cards
- 2 Spread all cards on the table face-up
- 3 Read through each card briefly as a team
- 4 Assign roles: timekeeper, recorder, presenter

Materials

- 15 timeline event cards
- Large table or desk space
- Notepad for recording observations

Strategy Tip

Don't try to order them immediately. First read all 15 cards, then look for obvious anchor points (earliest and latest events).

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A01:

Steps

- 1 Identify the earliest and latest events as anchor points
- 2 Place remaining cards between the anchors
- 3 Use logical dependencies to resolve uncertainties (e.g., “Bitcoin must come before Bitcoin forks”)
- 4 Discuss disagreements as a team
- 5 Finalize your timeline order

Think About Dependencies

Which events *enabled* other events? A technology must exist before it can be forked, attacked, or regulated.

Hint

- Not sure about exact dates? Focus on the logical sequence — what had to happen before what?

A01:

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Steps

- 1 Review your completed timeline
- 2 Identify the 3 most pivotal moments in the history
- 3 For each pivotal moment, document:
 - Why it was pivotal
 - What it enabled or changed
 - What would be different without it

What Makes a Moment “Pivotal”?

A pivotal moment changes the trajectory of the entire field. Without it, the subsequent events either wouldn't happen or would happen very differently.

Write It Down

- Your written analysis of the 3 pivotal moments is a key part of the deliverable

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A01:

Steps

- 1 Based on the trajectory you've observed, predict the next major milestone (2026–2030)
- 2 Justify your prediction using evidence from the timeline
- 3 Consider: technology trends, regulatory patterns, adoption curves
- 4 Write a short paragraph explaining your prediction

Be Specific

Don't just say "crypto will grow." Name a specific event, technology, or regulatory change and explain *why* the timeline evidence supports it.

Good Prediction Example

- "By 2028, a major central bank will launch a retail CBDC that interoperates with DeFi protocols, because the timeline shows accelerating institutional adoption since 2020."

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Presentation Structure

- 1 Timeline overview (1 min) — walk through your ordering
- 2 Pivotal moments (2 min) — present your top 3 with reasoning
- 3 Future prediction (1.5 min) — share and justify your forecast
- 4 Q&A (0.5 min) — answer questions from classmates

Grading Breakdown (50 pts)

- See rubric for detailed point allocation
- Key areas: chronological accuracy, pivotal moment analysis, prediction quality, presentation clarity

Deliverables Reminder

- Photo of your timeline
- Written document (1–2 pages)

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A01:

Assignment Page

digital-ai-finance.github.io/crypto-economics/assignments/A01_timeline_challenge/instructions.html

All Assignments

digital-ai-finance.github.io/crypto-economics/assignments/index.html

Grab your timeline cards and start exploring history!

You have 40 minutes for the activity plus 5 minutes for your group presentation.