

Dawn of Justice: The DCEU Timeline Explained

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4,500,000,000 BCE:

- Earth forms.

98,020 BCE:

- Krypton's civilization begins to flourish, with its people developing impressive technology.

18,635 BCE:

- A class of Kryptonian pilots, including Kara Zor-El, Dev-Em, and Kell-Ur, train for the upcoming interstellar terraforming program Krypton is about to undergo. In order to ensure his acceptance into the program, Dev-Em kills Kell-Ur and attacks Kara Zor-El, but is stopped and handed over to the Kryptonian council by Kara.
- The terraforming program begins on Krypton, with thousands of ships sent into the universe in order to colonize more planets. Kara Zor-El and her crew enter their cryopods and sleep, waiting to land on their chosen planet.

18,625 BCE:

- Kara Zor-El wakes up in her pod and discovers that Dev-Em not only entered her ship, but also changed the ship's destination to Earth and killed the rest of her crew. The two battle it out, each getting stronger as they get closer to the Sun. The ship is damaged during the scuffle.
- Kara wins the battle, although she cannot maintain control of the ship. It crash lands in what is now Canada. She places the dead crew in their pods and wanders into the icy wilderness.

4,357 BCE:

- Dзамor and Incubus are born.

2,983 BCE:

- Steppenwolf invades Earth.*
 - **One of the Amazons in Justice League mentioned that the warning signal hadn't been used for 5,000 years. Given how both the Queen and Diana both seem to imply/know that the signal is used for a single purpose (to signify invasion) and working backwards, this would imply that Steppenwolf originally invaded Earth around 2,983 BCE.*

753 BCE:

- According to legend, Rome is founded.

1018:

- King Atlan sinks Atlantis/Karathen begins defeating would be claimers of King Atlan's trident.*
 - **Karathen mentions that she had been defending the trident "for 1,000 years." Assuming Aquaman does take place in 2018, then this would put the start of her watch at 1018 CE.*

1118:

- Ares kills the Old Gods/Diana, princess of the Amazons, is born.*
 - **Although Zack Snyder mentioned in a 2016 interview with Empire that Diana was around 5,000 years old by the time Batman v Superman takes place, this would put her birth a few years before Steppenwolf's first invasion. This obviously can't happen, since the Old Gods would be dead by the time the invasion happens. Therefore, it's more likely that Patty Jenkins' belief that Diana is 800 by the time Wonder Woman takes place is Diana's accurate age.*

1126:

- Diana begins to take an active interest in the Amazons' combat training.*
 - **Diana is listed as being eight in this scene.*

1130:

- Antiope begins training Diana in combat.*
 - **Diana is listed as being twelve when she's formally made to begin training by the queen.*

1894:

- The *Smallville Sentinel* is established.

1902:

- Benjamin Wayne is born.

1914:

- World War I begins.

1915:

- Laura Wayne is born.

1918:

- The events of *Wonder Woman* take place.
- World War I ends.

1939:

- World War II begins.

1945:

- World War II ends.

1942:

- Thomas Wayne is born.

1946:

- Martha Wayne is born.

1951:

- Jonathan Kent is born.

1957:

- Silas Stone is born.*
 - **Batman's file on Silas Stone lists his birth date as May 2nd, 1957.*

1968:

- Waylon Jones is born.*
 - **Killer Croc's A.R.G.U.S. file lists his birth date as June 3rd, 1968.*

1969:

- Benjamin Wayne dies.

1970:

- Bruce Wayne is born.*
 - **Batman v Superman producer Michael Uslan confirms that Bruce is in his mid-forties by the events of the film, with Zack Snyder confirming on Vero back in 2017 that Bruce became Batman when he turned 25. Working backwards, we can see that this makes his birth date sometime in 1970.*

1974:

- Lex Luthor Sr. renames his company "LexCorp."
- A young Thaddeus Sivana is brought to the Rock of Eternity by the wizard Shazam to see if he is worthy of becoming the wizard's champion. Sivana fails after being

tempted by the Seven Deadly Sins and is sent back to Earth, where he accidentally distracts his father, causing a car crash.

1979:

- Laura Wayne dies.

1980:

- Kal-El is born naturally to Jor-El and Lara Lor-Van on Krypton.*
 - **Clark mentions in passing that he's 33 years old during a conversation with Dr. Emil Hamilton in Man of Steel. Working backwards, we can see that his birth date is 1980.*
- An unstable Krypton is set to explode after years of mining. Chief advisor Jor-El recommends to the Kryptonian Council that the Kryptonians flee the planet. However, a coup led by General Zod captures the Council and attacks Jor-El, although he is able to escape.
- Jor-El and Lara Lor-Van infuse the Growth Codex into Kal-El and send him off to the planet Earth. Jor-El is murdered by Zod soon afterwards.
- After a brief trial, Zod and some of his rebels are sentenced to the Phantom Zone. Krypton explodes soon afterwards.
- Kal-El lands in Smallville, Kansas, where he is found and adopted by Jonathan and Martha Kent. They give him a new name: "Clark Kent".
- Jonathan takes a piece of Clark's Kryptonian vessel to a metallurgist at Kansas State, and is informed that the material doesn't exist on Earth.

1981:

- Thomas and Martha Wayne are murdered by Joe Chill in front of an 11 year old Bruce outside of the Aragon Theater.*
 - **The theater is playing Excalibur, a movie that first premiered in 1981.*
- Chato Santana is born.*
 - **El Diablo's A.R.G.U.S. file lists his birth date as June 3rd, 1981.*

1984:

- Lex Luthor Jr. is born.*
 - **Luthor Jr. is mentioned to be 31 years old by the time his interview with Fortune takes place. Working backwards, we can see that his birth date is 1984.*

- Christopher Weiss is born.*
 - **Slipknot's A.R.G.U.S. file lists his birth date as February 23rd, 1984.*
- The events of *Wonder Woman 1984* take place.

1985:

- Queen Atlanna washes up on Amnesty Bay and is found by Thomas Curry.
- George Harkness is born.*
 - **Captain Boomerang's A.R.G.U.S. file lists his birth date as December 9th, 1985.*

1986:

- Arthur Curry is born*
 - **The tie in book Arthur's Guide to Atlantis lists his birth year as 1986.*
- Tatsu Yamashiro is born*
 - **Katana's A.R.G.U.S. file lists her birth date as March 16th, 1986.*

1988:

- June Moon is born.*
 - **Enchantress's A.R.G.U.S. file lists her birth date as August 17th, 1988.*

1989:

- A number of Clark's powers manifest at school, including super hearing, x-ray vision, and heat vision. Martha is called in to help calm him down, and in doing so, she teaches Clark to focus his powers and bring them under control.
- Several Atlantean soldiers arrive on Amnesty Bay searching for Queen Atlanna. Although she defeats them, the queen travels back to Atlantis to save both Thomas and Arthur.
 - **According to official documents, Arthur was 3 in this scene.*

1990:

- Harleen Quinzel is born.*
 - **Harley Quinn's A.R.G.U.S. file lists her birth date as July 20th, 1990.*

1992:

- Barry Allen is born.*

- **Barry's ID featured in Justice League gives him a birth date of September 30, 1992.*

1993:

- The school bus containing (among others) Clark Kent, Lana Lang, Pete Ross, and Whitney Fordham crashes into a local river. Clark saves the bus and its passengers, revealing his powers in the process.
- Jonathan shows Clark the ship he arrived in as an infant and reveals to him that he is an alien.

1995:

- Bruce Wayne becomes the vigilante Batman.
- A young Arthur Curry manifests his control over sea life during a field trip to an aquarium in Massachusetts.

1997:

- Clark, Jonathan, and Martha are driving down the road, with Clark and Jonathan arguing about Clark helping mankind as something more than a farmer. A huge tornado forms in their location, with Jonathan dying after saving the family dog.

1999:

- A thirteen year old Arthur gets his first proper swim lesson from Vulko.

2000:

- Lex Luthor Sr. dies.

2001:

- Barry Allen's mother is murdered by the Reverse Flash, although the police believe her husband Henry is responsible.

2002:

- A sixteen year old Arthur is told by Vulko during training that his mother was sacrificed due to her having a son with a surface dweller.

2004:

- Zoe Lawton is born.*
 - **In Suicide Squad, Amanda Waller mentions that Deadshot's daughter is 11 at the time of his capture by Batman. Working backwards, we can see that her birth date is 2004.*
- Billy Batson is born.*

- **In Shazam!, Billy mentions to Sivana that he's "basically 15", although Freddy confirms that Billy is actually somewhere around 14. Working backwards, we can see that his birth date is 2004.*

2005:

- Jason Todd is murdered at the hands of the Joker.

2007:

- Billy Batson's parents get divorced.
- 4 year old Billy Batson is separated from his mom, who leaves him with the police in the hopes that Billy would get a better life.
- Billy Batson's father is sent to jail in Florida for an undisclosed crime.

2009:

- Harley Quinn is sent to Belle Reeve prison for assaulting a police officer.

2009 (five months later):

- Harley Quinn is sent to Belle Reeve prison for breaking and entering.

2010:

- Harley Quinn is sent to Belle Reeve prison for kidnapping.
- June Moone encounters the spirit of the Enchantress while on an expedition for evidence to support her thesis.

2011:

- Slipknot is first arrested in Keystone City.

2012:

- Harley Quinn is sent to Belle Reeve prison for grand theft auto.

2013:

- Clark Kent, working on a fishing vessel, saves a number of men from a collapsing oil rig and disappears. He later gets a job working at a bar, which he quits following his destruction of a rowdy customer's truck. At some point, Clark gets work at the Canadian crash site of Kara Zor-El's Kryptonian ship.
- Lois Lane, investigating the Kryptonian ship, notices Clark sneaking off at night to investigate the ship himself, and decides to follow him.
- Clark manages to activate the ship and meets a holographic version of Jor-El, who briefly explains Krypton's history, Clark's birth name, and the reason why he was sent

- to Earth. Due to the ship being active, Lois is injured by one of the ship's security drones. Clark manages to save her and deposits her in the snow before taking the ship further into the wilderness.
- Back in Metropolis, Lois convinces her boss, Perry White, of her need to publish a story on the mysterious man who saved her. Following numerous leads, she eventually tracks Clark back to Smallville, although she agrees not to publish her story.
 - General Zod and the other surviving rebels manage to escape the Phantom Zone and broadcast a message to Earth, demanding that Clark surrender himself or the Earth will be destroyed.
 - Clark meets with a church pastor to discuss whether or not he should surrender, eventually deciding that he would, following a discussion with Lois.
 - Zod and his crew arrive to pick up Clark, deciding to also take Lois during the pick up. Clark finds out that he becomes weaker following his exposure to a Kryptonian atmosphere.
 - Zod reveals to Clark that Earth will be terraformed into a new Krypton, with the planet's current population being eliminated in the process. With the help of the holographic Jor-El, Clark and Lois escape to warn the military, just as Zod launches an invasion against Earth (later referred to as the "Black Zero Event").
 - Clark, now called "Superman", goes to destroy one of the terraforming machines in India, while Lois and the military go to destroy the other in Metropolis. Superman arrives back in Metropolis in time to save Lois.
 - Zod is revealed to still be alive and uses his growing abilities to fight Superman hand to hand. The battle destroys a large portion of the city, with members of the Metropolis branch of Wayne Industries dying as a result of the fight. Bruce Wayne, trying to save his employees, arrives just in time to comfort a crying young girl, and to see Superman battling Zod in the sky.
 - The battle between Superman and Zod comes to a head in a train station with Zod trying to kill a family with his heat vision, and Superman killing Zod to protect the family.
 - Superman manages to convince the military to allow him to act without supervision.
 - Superman, as Clark Kent, gets a job with the Daily Planet in order to be closer to the people he swore to protect, and is greeted by Lois.
 - Mark Hanford sells Kryptonian weaponry on the black market to protect his company, Hanford Technologies.
 - Kord (the company) is launched by Thomas Kord.

2013 (two weeks later):

- The events of *Cross Fire* occur.

2014:

- Monster T infuriates Joker at Joker's nightclub, causing the Clown Prince of Crime to kill him. He later goes on the run with Harley Quinn, with Batman in hot pursuit. Despite the Dark Knight's best efforts, the Joker manages to escape, leaving Harley Quinn behind. Quinn is captured by Batman and transported to prison.*
 - **Confirmed by Harley's mugshot dated 10/13/14.*

2015:

- Superman is interviewed by some kids after saving people in Metropolis.
- Ground Zero of the Black Zero Event becomes Heroes Park, where a Superman statue is erected to honor the hero who saved Metropolis.
- A 31 year old Lex Luthor Jr. gives an interview with Fortune Magazine.
- Luthor begins research on Victor Stone, Diana Prince, Barry Allen, and Arthur Curry.
- Superman saves a train full of passengers from running off its tracks. The footage is analyzed by a committee, led by Senator Finch, who agree to study Superman.
- Lois Lane confronts Hanford about the illegal arms dealing he participated in after Superman and Zod's fight. He attacks her when she reveals that the information was given to the authorities, prompting her to swiftly beat him into submission. A week later, Luthor buys Hanford Technologies.
- Luthor publicly announces his intentions to rebuild Metropolis. He then begins to study both Superman and Batman via monitors in a hidden room.
- Criminals steal Kryptonian weaponry from Wayne Enterprises, attracting the attention of Superman. Bruce Wayne saves a child who sneaked away during a field trip to the company. Wayne incapacitates one of the criminals, while the remainder are defeated by Superman. The Man of Steel takes the weapons away while being watched by Wayne.
- Batman battles Firefly and a pair of thugs, stopping them from burning down buildings in Gotham. He is observed by Luthor.
- Kryptonite is found in the wreckage of the Kryptonian terraforming machine Superman destroyed in India.
- Lois and undercover CIA agent Jimmy Olsen go to report on a warlord in the Republic of Nairomi. Jimmy is discovered to be a spy and is murdered on the spot, with Lois being captured. In the middle of an attack on the warlord's base, Superman arrives and rescues Lois.

- Superman discovers that the Nairobi terrorists had been shot to death, which is blamed by the media on him.
- Batman saves a group of women from a trafficker, branding the man in the process. He is later discovered by Gotham police officers arriving on the scene and flees. Back at the Batcave, Batman investigates Superman further.
- While watching the news, Superman learns about Batman and his brutal version of justice, and becomes intent on exposing the Dark Knight through his articles at the Daily Planet.
- Lex Luthor Jr. gets permission to examine both Zod's corpse and his crashed Kryptonian ship, which he activates by using the fingerprints of Zod.
- Superman, as Clark, is told by Perry not to investigate Batman, but rather focus on the recent football game between Metropolis and Gotham. He ignores this and travels to Gotham, gathering information for his Batman article.
- Senator Finch meets with Lex Luthor Jr. and informs him that she will be blocking the import of the kryptonite found in India.
- Batman suffers a nightmare of a giant bat monster attacking him at his parent's mausoleum. He later decides to attend a party hosted by Lex Luthor Jr. in order to investigate Lex's dealings with the "White Portuguese".
- While Lex gives a speech, Batman searches his home and begins hacking his data drives for encrypted information. The drive is later stolen by Diana Prince, who now works as an antiques dealer.
- Batman and Superman meet at the party, clashing over the idea of the Batman's brand of justice in Gotham. Both are greeted by Lex Luthor Jr.
- Superman rescues a number of people, including: a girl from a fire in Mexico during the Day of the Dead holiday; a ship by pulling it through the ice by a chain; astronauts from a rocket explosion; and people trapped on their roofs during a massive flood.
- Batman meets with Diana and retrieves his drive, later hacking it in the Batcave. While the drive is being decrypted, Batman has a vision of an apocalyptic future where Superman and Darkseid rule the planet, and where he is captured by Parademons and Superman's army. Waking up in captivity, he is murdered by an angry Superman.
- Waking up from the vision, Batman is visited by Future Flash, who alerts him to the idea that Lois Lane is the key to avoiding the apocalyptic future. Future Flash also begs Batman to find the other superhumans.

- Batman resolves to steal the kryptonite found in India and use it against Superman, should the Man of Steel ever act as an enemy of the Earth. During a chase to get the kryptonite, Batman is stopped by Superman and warned never to suit up again.
- Lois, investigating the bullets used to implicate Superman in the Nairobi terrorist murders, realizes that they were part of a plot to frame Superman for murder.
- Disgruntled Wayne Industries employee Walter Keefe works with Lex Luthor Jr. to bomb a Capitol Hill meeting regarding Superman's actions thus far. The bombing is quickly blamed on Superman.
- Lex Luthor Jr. uses the science on the Kryptonian vessel, Zod's corpse, and his own blood to create a Kryptonian deformity.
- Batman, in a new highly armored exoskeleton, rigs an entire area to battle Superman before activating the Bat-signal. Meanwhile, Superman is manipulated by Lex Luthor Jr. into fighting Batman in Gotham. The two meet and clash, with Batman gaining the upper hand and only being stopped after hearing the name "Martha".
- Superman returns to Lex Luthor Jr. to send him to jail, who then responds to Superman by unleashing Doomsday. Superman tries to send the monster into space, only to be hit with a nuclear missile by the military, causing both of them to crash back to Earth.
- Superman, Batman, and the newly arrived Wonder Woman battle Doomsday, causing massive destruction in the city. The battle finally ends after Superman, saying his goodbyes to Lois, fatally stabs Doomsday with Batman's Kryptonite spear, being stabbed himself by Doomsday's bone protrusion as a result. Both die from their injuries.
- Luthor is arrested and visited in jail by Batman. Batman tells Luthor that he's arranged for the criminal to be transferred to Arkham Asylum, given Luthor's plan to claim insanity.
- A funeral is held for both Superman and Clark Kent, the latter of which has been paid for by Batman. After the funeral, Batman and Wonder Woman decide to form a team of metahumans that can protect the world now that Superman is gone.

2015 (December):

- Batman captures Floyd Lawton in Gotham City while Lawton is out with his daughter.

2016:

- Harley Quinn is sent to Belle Reve prison for armed robbery.
- Amanda Waller shows off her planned Task Force X, a team of supervillains to send on overly dangerous missions, during a meeting with government officials. During the meeting, she shows off Dr. June Moone, who can transform into the witch known

as the Enchantress. Enchantress proves to have a mind of her own, which is why Waller uses the witch's heart as a tool to keep her in line.*

- **When Enchantress takes her heart back, we can see a shot of Waller's phone, giving us a date of August 2016.*
- Enchantress takes control of June and frees her brother, Incubus, in a plot to take over the world. Amanda tries to kill the Enchantress, but Incubus shares power with her and prevents her death.
- Amanda recruits a number of Belle Reeve inmates, including Deadshot, Harley Quinn, El Diablo, Captain Boomerang, Killer Croc, and Slipknot, as Task Force X and sends them off on a mission to extract a mystery target from Midway City, during the Enchantress's plot to take over the planet. The team is placed under the command of Rick Flag, and are sent in with a squad of soldiers for cover.
- The Joker discovers Harley's involvement with Task Force X and takes steps to ensure her freedom, including finding out where the nano bombs implanted in the team's necks to keep them in line are manufactured, as well as forcing one of the developers to disable Harley's bomb.
- While in Midway, Captain Boomerang convinces Slipknot that the bombs are decoys, leading to his trying to escape. His bomb goes off, killing him and reminding the rest of the team to keep to the mission.
- The team makes their way to their destination, fighting off hordes of Enchantress's minions, only to discover that Amanda Waller herself is their target. She kills her staff in a bid to cover up her involvement with the witch before attempting to escape via helicopter. The Joker then arrives and destroys their helicopter, while also attempting to rescue Harley. However, his helicopter is shot down and destroyed, although Harley is able to escape. The Joker is presumed dead.
- After a talk at a nearby bar, the team decides to move forward with the mission, despite being relieved by Rick Flag. They manage to kill Incubus, although Diablo is killed as well, and crush the Enchantress's heart, freeing Dr. June Moone in the process. The remaining Task Force X members are sent back to Belle Reeve with special privileges.
- While in her cell, Harley is visited by the Joker, who breaks her out of Belle Reeve.
- Amanda Waller meets with Bruce Wayne, who offers her protection from the public backlash in exchange for her files on known metahumans.

2017:

- The events of *Justice League* take place.*
 - **Hard to tell exactly (given the guard's phone dated in early January), but considering Barry's acceptance letter dated sometime in August 2017 and the*

K-Pop clip "As if it's your last" (which came out in June 2017) playing in Barry's loft, it seems reasonable to assume the Justice League came together sometime in the summer.

- In Paris, Diana receives a photographic plate from Wayne Enterprises of herself and her team taken during World War I, prompting her to recall her past.

2018:

- The events of *Aquaman* take place.
- The events of *Shazam!* take place.*
 - **The YouTube upload part of the powers montage shows that all of Billy's power testing took place in early December of 2018.*

Sources

The entire series of films:

- *Man of Steel*
- *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*
- *Suicide Squad*
- *Wonder Woman*
- *Justice League*
- *Aquaman*
- *Shazam!*

Viral sites/articles:

- <http://www.argus-gov.com/>
- http://fortune.com/contentfrom/2015/10/5/lex-luthor-jr/ntv_a/3dsBA58oDAfxgFA/

Miscellaneous

- *Cross Fire*
- *Batman v Superman* General Mills Comics
 - “Playground Heroes”
 - “Field Trip”
 - “Picture Proof”
 - “Lights Out”
- *Batman v Superman* takes place 18 months after *Man of Steel*
- *Behind the Scenes with the Worst Heroes Ever*
- [Zack Snyder confirms the Batman/Superman origin timeline](#)
- [Wonder Woman is 5,000 years old](#)
- [Arthur’s Guide to Atlantis confirms Arthur’s birth date](#)

- Justice League trailer mentions that the first invasion of Earth was long before Diana's birth

Continuity Errors?

Man of Steel

- The film supposedly takes place in the then present day of 2013, yet Clark is watching an apparently live football game between Kansas and Louisiana Tech that took place in 2008.
 - Clark could just be watching an old game. Nothing explicitly said that this specific game was taking place live.

Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice

- The Black Zero Event in *Man of Steel* took place in 2013, but a Daily Planet article mentioning Bruce Wayne rescuing Wallace Keefe (which took place at the same time) was published in 2014.
 - The article is merely background filler, not to be taken as fully canon in the DCEU.
- Clark's obituary in the Daily Planet mentions that Clark was born in 1986, which would mean that *Man of Steel* apparently takes place in 2019 if Clark is supposed to be 33.
 - The article is merely background filler, not to be taken as fully canon in the DCEU. Adding to this, the article also mentions that Clark came to Metropolis two years before he died, which means that the film has to take place in 2013, given that *Batman v Superman* takes place in 2015.

Suicide Squad

- Batman is definitely a cold blooded murderer in *Batman v Superman*, yet all of Batman's enemies are apparently still alive.
- At her age, Harley Quinn can't be both a psychiatrist trusted enough to be alone with the Joker and a hardcore criminal.
- It's been said by the director that the reason for Joker's teeth being how they are is because, after killing Robin, Batman caught up with the Joker and punched him in the mouth repeatedly until they shattered. But if that's true, then how was Harley Quinn involved (as her record in the movie states), since she hadn't become a supervillain yet?
- The ARGUS files on the future Justice League members give Arthur Curry a birth year of 1979, yet *Aquaman* proves that Thomas Curry and Queen Atlanna don't meet until she arrives on Amnesty Bay in 1985.

Wonder Woman

- Zack Snyder claims that Diana is around 5,000 by the time *Batman v Superman* takes place, while Patty Jenkins claims that she is actually somewhere around 800.
 - Neither offer any real evidence on this, but Diana only being 800 throws off a good majority of the early timeline. Therefore, it's more likely that the character is actually thousands of years old, as Snyder claims.