When you were born, you were 0 years old the entire time you were in your 1st year of life; when you were 1 year old, you were in your 2nd year of life; and at the age of 17, you will be in your 18th year of life.

Did you notice how the number of your age is always different from your year of life? For example, when you’re 7 you are in your 8th year of life.

Dates in history are also figured this way, except instead of saying 1st year or 10th year, we talk about the 1st set of 100 years (centuries), the 10th set of 100 years, etc.

Take a look on the time line at the 1st set of 100 years following Christ’s birth (AD 1). This range of years, from 1 to 100, is called the 1st century because it is the 1st set of 100 years after the birth of Christ.

The next set of 100 years, the dates in the 100’s, is called the 2nd century, and the 1700’s is called the 18th century. This is even true for the years before Christ (BC). For example, the 3rd century BC is the 200’s.

Did you notice that the years are different from the centuries? For example, the year 1345 is in the 14th century.

When you come across a century term in your reading, it’s always a good idea to translate it into years in your head. For example, if you read the term 15th century, think the 1400’s.

If you read a date or set of dates, but you’d like to describe them in terms of centuries, just drop the last two digits of the year and go up to the next number. For example, for the year 1453 you would think, “14 rounds up to 15, so it’s the 15th century.”

* Our modern calendar was based on the traditional placement of Christ’s birth at AD 1, although it is now believed Christ was actually born a few years prior to AD 1.

**Although technically a new century doesn’t begin until the “01” year, people commonly consider that a new “century” begins at “00” instead of “01.” Since this distinction isn’t crucial to understanding centuries, for memorization’s sake, it’s often easiest to remember that the 18th century is any date in the 1700’s, the 2nd century is any date in the 100’s, etc.

http://fivejs.wordpress.com
CENTURY PRACTICE
Fill in the missing terms. If given the century, write the years; if given the years, write the century. The first one has been done for you.

The 6th century = The _____500_____'s
The 12th century = The _____________'s
The 600's = The _______ century
The 20th century = The _______________'s
The 2nd century = The _____________'s
The 200's = The _______ century
The 10th century = The _______________'s
The 18th century = The _______________'s
The 0's = The _______ century
The 21st century = The _______________'s
The 1100's = The _______ century
The 15th century = The _______________'s
The 1st century = The _______________'s
The 1700's = The _______ century
The 8th century = The _______________'s
The 900's = The _______ century

WRITE YOUR OWN CENTURY PRACTICE
Write in equivalent century and year terms. The first one has been done for you.

The ___19th___ century = The _____1800_____'s
The ________ century = The _____________'s
The ______________,'s = The _______ century
The ________ century = The _____________'s
The ________ century = The _____________'s
The ______________,'s = The _______ century
The ________ century = The _____________'s
The ________ century = The _____________'s
The ______________,'s = The _______ century
The ________ century = The _____________'s
The ________ century = The _____________'s
The ______________,'s = The _______ century
The ________ century = The _____________'s
The ________ century = The _____________'s
The ______________,'s = The _______ century
The ________ century = The _____________'s
The ________ century = The _____________'s
The ______________,'s = The _______ century