

## Back in Time 1.5



### Pros

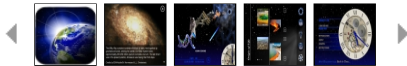
It's easy on the eyes and full of content.

### Cons

Back in Time is lean in its interactivity. Children will likely lose interest quickly.

### The Verdict ★★★★★

It should serve well as a family educational app but is mostly for adults who would like an attractive method to browse history on their portable device.



( View Full Gallery )



Image 1 of 5



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**App Aims:** Learn about the history of the galaxy and where you fit in it.

#### Reviewer's Comments

Back in Time is an [educational iPhone app](#) that balances historical highlights through the use of videos, pictures, little-known facts, intriguing music and fairly simple narrative dialogue. If you choose to enter the celestially engulfing panorama of Back in Time, you'll quickly be impressed with the eclectic array of pictures. This is certainly the most impressive aspect of the app. A close second to that is the random facts feature. They are normally a pleasure to read, and offer a break from the straight informative text, which reads like snippets from a textbook, offering fragments on dozens of subjects.

The premise is clever enough. The time from 13.7 billion years ago until now is reduced to 24 hours. So, in the analogy, dinosaurs were extinct seven minutes ago. The app developers use this device to help you get perspective and to see how the vast eras of time connect to each other. It seems to work, too.

After you choose a time on the clock interface, you'll be able to scroll through icons representing different eras and galactic tourist stops. This is where the heart of the content lies. After you tap on something like Maya Civilization or Milky Way, you can browse through the pictures, occasional videos, informative text, random facts and the calendar to see where the entry fits on the timetable. You'll find information on topics ranging from earth science and space to evolution and history.

Back in Time isn't very clear about whether it is made for children or adults. It advertises that it's for anyone over 4 years old. While 4-year-olds can look at pictures, and there are over 300 of them, the videos are sparse indeed and much of the information is conveyed via text. In fact, almost nothing makes this app fun. We didn't feel particularly invited to come and learn, and this is where the app falls short a little.

In Back in Time's defense, there are playful animations you can toggle on and off. If you're reading about The First Mammals, you'll see a skeleton rodent scurry down the screen. This, and the random facts, keeps the whole experience from feeling lifeless, but considering that the medium here is an iPad, we were hoping for a more engaging and entertaining experience.

The app didn't crash while we reviewed it and worked just the way it is supposed to. Landka, the developer of this app, provides a generic contact email, and you can provide them your feedback through the App Store as well. However, that is the extent of the customer service or technical support you'll find for this app.

## Summary:

If you've ever seen a good movie, but can't feel satisfied because you know that it could have been better, you know exactly how we feel about Back in Time. The pictures are enjoyable to casually flip through. It houses a good collection of random facts. The orchestral music is a great fit. The way you glide through topics is well designed and a pleasure. All of this makes it a good iPhone app, perhaps even above average. However, it's nearly empty when it comes to providing an engaging, entertaining and interactive learning environment, which will limit the enjoyment and whole experience with the younger audience.

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