



# United States Timeline

Year

Icons indicate additional resources available in the tool kit.



Map



Biography



Document

## Exploration and Colonization

**1492** Christopher Columbus sailed to the Americas, leading to European colonization.

**1607** Jamestown, the first permanent English colony, was established.

**1620** Mayflower ship transported Pilgrims from England to Plymouth, Mass.; Mayflower Compact.

**1639** Fundamental Orders of Connecticut, an early document describing the government structure and powers, was written.

**1732** Last of the 13 colonies, Georgia, was founded.

## French and Indian War: 1754 – 1763

**1756** French and Indian War was fought between the French and the British, resulting in British control of more territory.

## Independence and Constitution

**1770** Boston Massacre erupted between American colonists and British soldiers in reaction to the tensions over the Townshend Acts.

**1774** Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to discuss strategies to unite the American colonies.

## American Revolutionary War: 1775 – 1783

**1775** Battle of Bunker Hill, the first major battle between the American colonists and the British, took place in Boston.

**1776** Declaration of Independence was adopted.

**1781** British surrendered in Yorktown, ending British hopes of victory in the war.

	Articles of Confederation adopted as the first governing document of the United States.
1783	Treaty of Paris signed, ending the Revolutionary War. 🇺🇸
<b>Westward Expansion</b>	
1787	Northwest Ordinance established government of the territory of the United States northwest of the Ohio River. 🇺🇸
1788	<i>The Federalist</i> , a collection of essays in favor of ratification of the Constitution, was published. 🇺🇸
	U.S. Constitution was ratified. 🇺🇸
1789	George Washington inaugurated as the first president. 🇺🇸
1793	The Republican Party was founded by Thomas Jefferson.
1797	George Washington delivered his farewell address. 🇺🇸
1800	The Federal Party lost control of Congress.
1801	Republican Thomas Jefferson became president. 🇺🇸
	Thomas Jefferson delivered his first inaugural address. 🇺🇸
1803	<i>Marbury v. Madison</i> case established the basis for judicial review. 🇺🇸
	Louisiana Purchase territory bought by U.S. from the French. 🇺🇸
1805 – 1807	Lewis and Clark led expedition of the northwest.
<b>War of 1812: 1812 - 1815</b>	
1812	War of 1812 was fought between U.S. and Britain.
1819	Adams-Onis Treaty agreement was made between the U.S. and Spain, establishing the boundaries of their territorial claims in North America.
1820	Missouri Compromise agreement on slavery in the western territories was reached. 🇺🇸
1823	Monroe Doctrine declared U.S. opposition to colonialism.
1828	First passenger railway from Baltimore built.

1829	Andrew Jackson elected president, establishing the Jacksonian era. 🇺🇸
<b>Mexican War: 1845 – 1848</b> 🇺🇸	
1846	Dred Scott helped by abolitionist lawyers in suing for his right to freedom.
	Mexico attacked U.S. troops in southern Texas, starting the Mexican War.
1848	Peace treaty signed between U.S. and Mexico, ending the war. Mexico ceded California, New Mexico, and recognized the annexation of Texas.
	The Declaration of Sentiments at the Seneca Falls Convention declared the need for women's rights to be acknowledged. 🇺🇸
1850	Compromise of 1850 addressed issues of territory and slavery.
1853	The Gadsden Purchase by the U.S. from Mexico gave the U.S. rights to territory in what is now New Mexico and Arizona. 🇺🇸
1857	Supreme Court ruled that no slave or descendent of slaves could be a U.S. citizen.
1858	Lincoln-Douglas debates during campaign for Senate raised Lincoln to national prominence.
1860	Abraham Lincoln elected president. 🇺🇸
	South Carolina seceded from the Union.
1861	Abraham Lincoln delivered his first inaugural address. 🇺🇸
	Confederate government organized.
<b>Civil War: 1861 – 1865</b> 🇺🇸	
	Fort Sumter fell and the Civil War began.
	Battle of Bull Run was first major land battle of Civil War.
1862	Second Battle of Bull Run took place.

	Battle of Antietam was the bloodiest single day of battle in U.S. history.
	Battle of Fredericksburg caused massive casualties and withdrawal of Union troops.
	Slavery was abolished in District of Columbia.
	Homestead Act passed by Congress; it created guidelines for distributing titles to land beyond the 13 colonies.
1863	Emancipation Proclamation issued by Lincoln declared freedom of all slaves.
	Gettysburg Address given by Lincoln. 🇺🇸
1865	Richmond evacuated as Confederate Army withdrew.
	Surrender of Lee at Appomattox ended Civil War.
1865	President Lincoln delivered his second inaugural address. 🇺🇸
	President Lincoln assassinated.
	Andrew Johnson inaugurated as 17 <sup>th</sup> president. 🇺🇸
	13 <sup>th</sup> Amendment abolishing slavery ratified.
<b>Reconstruction: 1865 – 1877</b>	
1866	Southern States rejected Bill of Rights including civil rights.
1867	Military Reconstruction Act passed.
1868	President Johnson impeached by the House of Representatives.
	Ulysses S. Grant elected president. 🇺🇸
<b>Transcontinental Railroads</b>	
1869	Union Pacific, the first transcontinental railroad, was completed.
1872	Amnesty Act removed restrictions on secessionists eliminating most voting and office-holding disqualifications.
1873	Panic of 1873 caused by series of negative economic events.
1875	Civil Rights Act of 1875.
1876	Massacre of black militiamen in Hamburg, South Carolina, led to a race war in the state.

	Battle of Little Big Horn (Custer's Last Stand) was a victory for the Indian tribes, defeating U.S. cavalry led by Custer.
	Disputed Election of 1876: Rutherford B. Hayes named president by Congressional election over Samuel Tilden who actually won the electoral vote 185 – 184. 🇺🇸 🇺🇸
1877	Railroad strikes occurred throughout the nation.
1879	Thomas Alva Edison invented the light bulb.
1881	Tuskegee Institute founded; Booker T. Washington became the first principal.
1882 – 1883	Construction began on Santa Fe, Southern Pacific, and Northern Pacific railroads.
1883	Civil rights cases established segregation as lawful.
	Civil Rights Act of 1875 declared unconstitutional.
1887	Dawes Severalty Act (Dawes Act) allotted reservation lands to individual Indian families.
1889	North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, and Montana granted statehood.
1890	Wyoming granted statehood.
	Sherman Anti-trust Act passed.
	Idaho granted statehood.
	Frontier declared officially “closed” by Census Bureau.
1895	<i>U.S. v. E.C. Knight Co.</i> limited reach of Sherman Act.
1896	Utah gained statehood.
	<i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> upheld racial segregation as “separate but equal.”
<b>Modern United States</b>	
1901	Oil discovered at Spindletop near Beaumont, Texas.
	U.S. Steel was organized and became the U.S.'s first billion dollar corporation.



	President William McKinley was shot by Leon Czolgosz, an anarchist. After the McKinley's death, Vice President Theodore Roosevelt became president. 
<b>1902</b>	The United Mine Workers staged a strike against anthracite coal mine operators. President Roosevelt appointed a commission to negotiate the settlement.
<b>1903</b>	Panama Canal decision ratified.
	Ford Motor Co. founded.
	The Wright brothers made the first successful flight by a powered aircraft at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.
<b>1904</b>	President Theodore Roosevelt announced the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine. 
<b>1905</b>	Industrial Workers of the World founded.
<b>1906</b>	Upton Sinclair published <i>The Jungle</i> , exposing the working conditions in Chicago's meatpacking houses.
	The Great San Francisco Earthquake killed 400 people and caused \$500 million worth of damage.
	The Pure Food and Drug Act banned the sale of contaminated foods and drugs.
<b>1907</b>	"The Great White Fleet," made up of sixteen battleships, began an around the world cruise to show U.S. military strength.
<b>1908</b>	During two days of anti-black rioting in Springfield, Ill., 2,000 African Americans were forced out of the city, two were lynched, and six were killed.
<b>1909</b>	Henry Ford introduced his Model T. Original price: \$850.
	Explorers Robert Peary and Matthew Henson reached the North Pole. Henson, who was African American, trained the dog teams, built the sleds, and spoke the language of the Eskimos.

	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was created. The group demanded equal civil, political, and educational rights, and enforcement of the 14 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> Amendments.
1910	In his New Nationalism speech, Theodore Roosevelt laid out his commitment to conservation, a graduated income tax, regulation of trusts, and the rights of labor. 🇺🇸
1911	Frustrated Republicans left the party and formed the Progressive Party also known as the "Bull Moose Party." They named Theodore Roosevelt as the presidential candidate.
	146 Jewish and Italian immigrant women were killed in a fire at New York's Triangle Shirtwaist Company.
1912	Theodore Roosevelt was shot in a Milwaukee hotel during a campaign tour. Roosevelt delivered his speech before going to a hospital.
1913	The 16 <sup>th</sup> Amendment passed, allowing the federal government to collect income taxes.
	The Federal Reserve System was established, providing central control over the nation's currency and credit.
	Pancho Villa, a Mexican revolutionary leader, led a raid on New Mexico.
<b>World War I: 1914 – 1918</b>	
1914	Company guards and National Guard troops attacked striking coal miners at John D. Rockefeller's Colorado Fuel & Iron Co. in Ludlow, Colo. When the Ludlow War was over, 74 people had died, including eleven children.
	The assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, by a Serbian nationalist, started a chain of events that resulted in World War I.
	The Federal Trade Commission was established to prevent monopolies and unfair business practices.

1915	Margaret Sanger, who coined the term "birth control," was arrested in New York for distributing contraceptive information.
	The British ship, the Lusitania, was torpedoed and sank off the Irish coast; 1,198 passengers drowned, including 128 Americans.
	Henry Ford chartered a "Peace Ship," in an effort to end World War I.
1916	Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa, along with 1,500 men, crossed the U.S. border to attack Columbus, N. Mex. President Wilson ordered Brig. Gen. John "Black Jack" Pershing to capture Villa. 🇺🇸
1917	The Associated Press published the "Zimmermann Telegram," which proposed a German alliance with Mexico and promised Mexico recovery of lost territory in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.
	In a speech asking Congress to declare war against Germany, President Wilson said, "The world must be made safe for democracy." 🇺🇸 🇩🇪
	The U.S. declared war on the Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy.
<b>Post War United States: 1918 – 1940</b>	
1918	President Woodrow Wilson issued his 14 Point plan for a lasting peace. French Prime Minister Clemenceau responded: "Even God Almighty has only ten."
	A deadly influenza epidemic reached its height. Altogether, the epidemic killed nearly 500,000 in the U.S. and 8 million worldwide.
1919	President Wilson collapsed from a stroke.



	The Palmer Raids were conducted under orders from Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer. Department of Justice agents raided the headquarters of communist or anarchist organizations in a dozen cities.
	The Senate failed to ratify the Versailles Peace Treaty. The Senate voted 55 – 9, nine votes short of the required two-thirds majority.
<b>The Roaring '20s</b>	
<b>1920</b>	The 18 <sup>th</sup> Amendment went into effect, and prohibited the “ <i>manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors.</i> ”
	The 19 <sup>th</sup> Amendment that allowed woman the right to vote was approved by the states.
<b>1921</b>	Treaty of Berlin: U.S. and Germany signed a separate peace treaty.
<b>1922</b>	The U.S., Great Britain, France, Italy, and Japan signed the Washington Naval Treaty hoping to reduce the threat of future wars.
<b>1923</b>	U.S. foreign minister Charles Hughes refused to grant the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (U.S.S.R.) diplomatic recognition.
<b>1924</b>	The states of Wyoming and Texas elected women governors.
<b>1925</b>	The Federal Aid Highway Act of 1925 established the number system in organizing U.S. highways as the number of highways throughout the country grew.
	At the "Monkey" Trial in Dayton, Tenn., schoolteacher John Scopes was tried for violating a Tennessee law prohibiting the teaching of evolution. Scopes was found guilty of violating the law and fined \$100. The sentence was later overturned.
<b>1926</b>	Henry Ford introduced the 40-hour work week and the \$5 a day wage in the auto industry.
<b>1927</b>	Charles Lindbergh made the first solo and non-stop flight from Long Island to Paris in 33 hours and 29 minutes in his plane named <i>The Spirit of St. Louis</i> .

	Anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolommeo Vanzetti were executed in Massachusetts for the 1920 killing of a factory guard, despite protests that they were being punished for their political beliefs.
1928	The Jazz Singer, the first "talkie," premiered. The first words were, "You ain't heard nothin' yet."
	Fifteen nations, including the U.S., signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact, which renounced war "as an instrument of national policy."
	<b>The Great Depression</b>
1929	Black Tuesday: The stock market crashed. Between September 3 and December 1, stocks lost \$26 billion in value.
1930	The Smoot-Hawley Tariff raised duties on agricultural and manufactured goods, and triggered foreign retaliation.
1931	President Herbert Hoover signed an act making the "Star-Spangled Banner" the national anthem. 
	Nine black youths, known as the "Scottsboro Boys, were charged with rape in Tennessee. The case established the right of African Americans to serve on juries.
	A bank panic forced 305 banks to close in September and another 522 in October.
1932	The Reconstruction Finance Corporation was established to provide loans to banks, railroads, and insurance companies to stimulate the economy.
	President Herbert Hoover ordered the army to remove 15,000 WWI veterans, known as the Bonus Army, who had been camped in Washington for two months demanding early payment of a bonus due in 1945.
1933	Adolf Hitler, leader of Germany's Nazi party, was appointed Chancellor.
	Franklin D. Roosevelt became President and launched the New Deal. In his inaugural address, he said: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." 

	The 18 <sup>th</sup> Amendment, prohibition, was repealed by the 21 <sup>st</sup> Amendment.
<b>1934</b>	The Federal Bank Deposit Insurance Corporation began insuring bank deposits against bank failure.
<b>1935</b>	The Supreme Court declared the National Industrial Recovery Act unconstitutional.
	President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act.
<b>1935 – 1938</b>	The Dust Bowl devastated agricultural production in parts of Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Nebraska, leading people to migrate farther west.
<b>1936</b>	In violation of the Versailles Treaty that ended World War I, 4,000 German troops occupied the Rhineland.
	Jesse Owens won four medals at the Olympics in Berlin, crushing Hitler's claims about the superiority of the Aryan race.
<b>1937</b>	A Neutrality Act prohibited the export of arms and ammunition to belligerents, nations at war.
<b>1938</b>	The House of Representatives created the House on un-American Activities commission to investigate the possibility of the American Communist Party taking over programs of the "New Deal."
	To avoid war, Britain and France gave in to Hitler's claim to the Sudetenland, the German-populated part of Czechoslovakia. Critics criticized the Munich Pact as "appeasement."
<b>World War II: 1939 – 1945</b> 🇺🇸	
<b>1939</b>	World War II began with Germany's invasion of Poland on September 1.
	Norway and Denmark were taken by the Nazis.
<b>1940</b>	Germany captured Holland, Belgium, and Luxemburg.
	The Smith Act outlawed organizations advocating the overthrow of the U.S. government.
	The British Royal Air Force defeated the German air force, the Luftwaffe, in the Battle of Britain.

	The U.S. provided Britain with 50 out-dated warships in exchange for 99-year leases on eight military bases in Newfoundland and the West Indies.
<b>1941</b>	President Roosevelt called on Congress to defend four essential freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. 🇺🇸
	Japanese planes and submarines attacked the American fleet anchored at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The surprise attack heavily damaged or sank 19 ships and killed 3,457 soldiers, sailors, and civilians.
	President Roosevelt delivered a speech to Congress requesting a declaration of war with Japan. 🇺🇸
	President Roosevelt authorized the internment of 112,000 Japanese-Americans that lived along the Pacific coast. Japanese-Americans in Hawaii were not interned. More than 17,000 Japanese-Americans served in the U.S. armed forces during the war.
<b>1942</b>	U.S. aircraft stopped a Japanese attack in the Central Pacific, sank 17 Japanese ships, and shot down 250 airplanes at the Battle of Midway.
	British and American forces invaded French North Africa.
	A research team led by physicist Enrico Fermi produced the first successful atomic chain reaction at the University of Chicago.
<b>1943</b>	During the “Zoot Suit Riots” U.S. sailors in Los Angeles attacked Mexican American civilians.
	An anti-black riot in Detroit resulted in the deaths of 25 blacks and nine whites.
	150,000 British, American, and Canadian forces landed in Sicily and conquered the island in five weeks.
	Benito Mussolini resigned as head of Italy's government after 21 years of rule.

	British and American forces advanced into Italy.
1944	D-Day: Over a 48-hour period, 156,000 Allied troops stormed the beaches of Normandy in France, while 8,000 Allied planes provided air cover.
	President Roosevelt signed the GI Bill of Rights that provided educational and vocational benefits for veterans after the war.
	At the largest naval battle in history, The Battle of Leyte Gulf, 166 U.S. ships and 1,280 planes destroyed five Japanese aircraft carriers, four battleships, 14 cruisers, and 43 other ships and 7,000 aircraft.
	The last German counter offense of the war, the Battle of the Bulge, began.
1945	V-E Day: Germany was forced to surrender to the Allies.
	Delegates from 50 nations drafted the United Nations Charter in San Francisco.
	<i>The Enola Gay</i> , a B-29 Bomber, dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. On August 9, a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki; more than 200,000 died as a result.
	Japan formally surrendered in a ceremony aboard the U.S.S. <i>Missouri</i> in Tokyo Bay.
<b>The Cold War: 1945 – 1991</b> 🇺🇸	
1946	Winston Churchill announced that "an iron curtain has descended across the Continent" of Europe. 🇪🇺
1947	Jackie Robinson became the first African American in baseball's major leagues.
1948	Congress authorized the Marshall Plan to provide economic and material relief to Europe.
	The U.S. formally recognized the state of Israel.
1949	The U.S. joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and pledged to resist aggression against member nations.

1950	Sen. Joseph McCarthy from Wisconsin began a sensational search for communists alleged to be working in the U.S. government.
<b>Korean War: 1950 – 1953</b>	
The Korean War began when the North Korean army crossed the 38 <sup>th</sup> parallel into South Korea.	
U.S. forces crossed the 38 <sup>th</sup> parallel into North Korea.	
After UN forces approached the Yalu River near the North Korea/China border, Chinese troops began fighting and pushed the U.S. and its allies out of North Korea.	
1951	Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were sentenced to death for their alleged role in passing U.S. atomic secrets to the Soviet Union. They were later executed for espionage in 1953.
President Truman dismissed Gen. Douglas MacArthur, commander of forces in Korea, for publicly challenging the policies of his civilian superiors. MacArthur had advocated an invasion of China. 	
1952	U.S. Senate ratified a peace treaty with Japan.
1953	An armistice formally ended the Korean War, which killed three million people and cost the U.S. 54,000 lives and \$22 billion.
1954	Five members of Congress were shot on the floor of the House of Representatives by Puerto Rican nationalists.
The Army-McCarthy hearings began. Sen. McCarthy had charged that the Secretary of the Army had interfered with his investigations of communists in the military. The Army counter charged that McCarthy had sought favors for an aide who was in the service. In December, the Senate censured McCarthy 67-22.	
The French garrison at Dien Bien Phu in Vietnam fell to forces led by communist Ho Chi Minh.	
<b>Civil Rights Movement Gains Momentum</b>	



	In <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> , the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that segregated schools were unconstitutional.
1955	Seamstress Rosa Parks was arrested after she refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus to a white man. This led to a year-long bus boycott.
1956	Bikini Atoll, in the Pacific Ocean, became the site of the first airborne explosion of a hydrogen bomb.
1957	President Eisenhower sent a thousand army paratroopers to Little Rock, Arkansas's Central High School, to permit nine African American children to enroll in the previously all-white school. 🇺🇸
	The Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first artificial satellite.
<b>Vietnam War: 1959 – 1975</b>	
1959	Alaska was admitted as the 49 <sup>th</sup> U.S. state.
	Texas Instruments requested a patent of the Integrated Circuit, revolutionizing the computer industry.
	Hawaii was admitted as the 50 <sup>th</sup> U.S. State.
1960	The "sit-in" movement began when four African American students sat down at a Charlotte, North Carolina Woolworth's to protest segregated lunch counters.
	A U-2 spy plane with Francis Gary Powers at the controls was shot down over the U.S.S.R. A scheduled summit meeting between Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev and President Dwight Eisenhower was cancelled as the U.S.S.R. accused the U.S. of either spying or lying.
	The Food and Drug Administration approved the birth control pill. By 1962, 1.2 million American women were taking it.
	Presidential candidates John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon faced off in four televised debates.
1961	President Eisenhower delivered his farewell address. 🇺🇸
	President Kennedy delivered his inaugural address. 🇺🇸 🇺🇸



	1500 Cuban refugees, trained at a secret CIA base in Guatemala, landed at the Bay of Pigs in Cuba. The attempt to topple the Castro regime was a failure. On Christmas, 1962, Castro exchanged 1,113 captured invaders and 922 of their relatives for \$53 million worth of medicine and food.
	The "Freedom Riders" left Washington, D.C., to desegregate public transportation facilities in the South.
	The U.S. launched its first astronaut, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Alan Shepard, Jr., into space.
	The first two U.S. military companies arrived in South Vietnam. In October, President Kennedy had written: "The United States is determined to help Vietnam preserve its independence, protect its people against communist assassins and build a better life."
	<b>Environmentalism Gains Momentum</b>
<b>1962</b>	Rachel Carson published <i>Silent Spring</i> , which documented damage caused by pesticides.
	The first convention of the United Farm Workers began under the leadership of Cesar Chavez.
	James Meredith became the first African American student at the University of Mississippi. An ensuing riot left two dead and 375 injured.
	The Cuban Missile Crisis: The U.S. and U.S.S.R. came close to nuclear war when the U.S. learned that the Soviet Union was installing offensive nuclear weapons in Cuba. The crisis ended when Moscow dismantled the launch sites in exchange for President Kennedy's pledge not to invade Cuba again.
<b>1963</b>	The U.S. and U.S.S.R. signed the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and installed a "hot line" to speed communications between the White House and the Kremlin.




	200,000 civil rights demonstrators in Washington, who marched in support of the Civil Rights Act, heard the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., deliver his "I Have a Dream" speech.
	President John Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. Two days later, his alleged assassin was shot to death in a Dallas jail.
<b>1964</b>	President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, integrating public accommodations and prohibiting job discrimination. 
	The U.S. announced that North Vietnamese torpedo boats attacked a U.S. ship in the Gulf of Tonkin in international waters, 30 miles off the North Vietnamese coast. By a vote of 502 – 2, Congress approved the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution that authorized the president "to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression."
	The commission established by President Lyndon Johnson to investigate the assassination of President Kennedy concluded that he died at the hands of a single assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald.
<b>1965</b>	Ralph Nader published <i>Unsafe at Any Speed</i> , which called for auto safety regulations.
	Arson and looting erupted in the Watts district of Los Angeles and resulted in 34 deaths and 3,900 arrests.
<b>1967</b>	The summer of 1967 was called the Summer of Love in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district.
	Riots in Newark, N.J., and Detroit, Michigan, left more than 60 dead and over 3,500 injured.
	Thurgood Marshall was sworn in as the first African American Supreme Court justice.
<b>1968</b>	The North Vietnamese and Viet Cong launched the Tet Offensive against major cities in South Vietnam. It shattered the belief that the United States was on the verge of military victory.

	President Johnson announced that he would not seek reelection and ordered a halt to most U.S. bombing of North Vietnam.
	The Rev. Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was supporting a sanitation workers' strike.
	Democratic presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated after delivering his victory speech in the California primary.
	Police clubbed demonstrators at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.
<b>1969</b>	Astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the moon. His first words from the lunar surface were: "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for all mankind."
	Half a million people gathered at a music festival near Woodstock, New York.
	89 American Indian activists occupied Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay to demonstrate the problems facing Native Americans.
<b>1970</b>	U.S. troops began fighting in Cambodia.
	National Guard troops killed four students at Kent State University in Ohio during protests against the Cambodia invasion.
<b>1971</b>	The New York Times printed the first installment of the <i>Pentagon Papers</i> , a classified history of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.
	The 26th Amendment gave 18-year-olds the right to vote.
	President Nixon announced that he would visit The People's Republic of China. 🇨🇳
<b>Watergate</b>	

<b>1972</b>	Five burglars were caught installing eavesdropping equipment in the offices of the Democratic National Committee in the Watergate office complex in Washington, D.C.
<b>1973</b>	The U.S. and North Vietnam signed a treaty ending American activities in Vietnam.
	The American Indian Movement occupied a trading post and church in Wounded Knee, South Dakota, the site of the 1890 massacre of the Sioux, to draw attention to the grievances of Native Americans.
	A Senate committee opened hearings on the Watergate Affair.
	Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned because of charges of tax evasion. House Republican leader Gerald Ford replaced Agnew as Vice President.
	Members of the Oil Producing and Exporting Countries (OPEC) began an oil embargo against the U.S. to raise oil prices and punish the U.S. for its support of Israel.
<b>1974</b>	The House Judiciary Committee voted 27 – 11 to recommend President Nixon's impeachment.
	Richard Nixon became the first president to resign his office. Gerald Ford became the 38 <sup>th</sup> president and declared "Our long national nightmare is over."
	President Ford pardoned Richard Nixon for any crimes he may have committed as president. The pardon contributed to Ford's defeat in the 1976 presidential election. 
<b>1975</b>	The Vietnam War ended when North Vietnamese troops occupied Saigon and renamed it Ho Chi Minh City.
<b>1976</b>	Jimmy Carter was elected the 39 <sup>th</sup> U.S. President. 
<b>1977</b>	The Space Shuttle test model "Enterprise" carried a crew in flight for first time; it was attached to a modified Boeing 747.
<b>1978</b>	President Jimmy Carter mediated the Egyptian-Israeli peace settlement.
	The Iranian revolution began.

1979	The U.S. formally recognized The People's Republic of China.
	America's worst nuclear accident took place at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Plant near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
	Iranian militants took U.S. citizens, working in Iran, hostage.
<b>The United States as a World Superpower</b>	
1980	Ronald Reagan was elected the 40 <sup>th</sup> president. 
1981	IBM released its first personal computer.
	Hostages released from Iran.
	First AIDS case diagnosed.
	Sandra Day O'Connor sworn in as the first female Supreme Court justice.
1982	Equal Rights Amendment failed to achieve ratification.
1983	The word "Internet" was used for the first time.
	U.S. forces toppled the communist government on the Caribbean island of Grenada.
1984	Ronald Reagan was reelected.
	Congress ordered an end to all secret aid to Nicaraguan Contras.
1985	Members of the Reagan Administration began a secret arms-for-hostages negotiation with Iran.
1986	The space shuttle <i>Challenger</i> exploded shortly after takeoff, killing all aboard.
	The Reagan Administration announced that profits from Iranian arms sales were sent to the Nicaraguan Contras.
1987	A Congressional report stated that President Ronald Reagan bore "ultimate responsibility" for wrongdoing by his aides in the Iran-Contra Affair.
1988	Al-Qaeda was founded by Osama bin Laden.
	George H. W. Bush was elected 41 <sup>st</sup> president. 
1989	The <i>Exxon Valdez</i> spilled 11 million gallons of oil into Alaska's Prince William Sound.

	The U.S. invaded Panama and removed President and General Manuel Noriega.
<b>The Gulf War: 1990 – 1991</b>	
<b>1990</b>	Iraqi troops invaded and occupied Kuwait.
<b>1991</b>	U.S., Western, and Arab forces removed the Iraqi army from Kuwait by force.
	Tim Berners-Lee introduced the first web browser known as <i>WorldWideWeb</i> ; it was later renamed <i>Nexus</i> .
	Soviet Union broke apart; the Cold War came to an end.
<b>After the Cold War</b>	
<b>1992</b>	Democrat Bill Clinton was elected 42 <sup>nd</sup> president. 
<b>1993</b>	Congress passed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and eliminated trade barriers between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.
	Terrorists bombed the World Trade Center in New York City, killing six.
	Eighteen U.S. Marines, members of a UN peace-keeping force, were killed in Somalia.
<b>1994</b>	Republicans gained control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate in the 1994 mid-term elections.
<b>1995</b>	The Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was bombed. The blast killed 167 men, women, and children and injured 853 others.
<b>1996</b>	Bill Clinton was reelected president.
<b>1998</b>	Bombings at U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar el Islam, Tanzania, killed 224.
	The House of Representatives approved two articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton and charged him with lying under oath to a federal grand jury and obstructing justice in the Monica Lewinsky affair.

1999	President Clinton was acquitted by the Senate in his impeachment trial.
	The U.S. transferred control of Panama Canal to Panama.
<b>The 21st Century</b>	
2000	The world continued as Y2K bug turned out to be unfounded.
	Vice President Al Gore conceded the presidential election to Texas Governor George W. Bush, although Gore won the popular vote. After a month of controversy over election results, the Supreme Court halted a recount of Florida votes, which gave Bush more votes in the Electoral College. 🇺🇸
2001	September 11: Members of al-Qaeda terrorist organization crashed jet airliners into the two World Trade Center towers in New York City, New York, and the Pentagon in Virginia and took over a fourth plane; 2,996 died.
	The U.S. invaded Afghanistan in a counterattack on terrorism.
<b>Iraq War: 2003 – 2011</b>	
2003	The U.S. began the invasion of Iraq, which launched the Iraq War. The goal was to disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction (which were never found), end Saddam Hussein's support for terrorism, and free the Iraqi people.
2005	Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, killing at least 1,836, causing \$81 billion damage, and displacing thousands from their homes.
2007	Nancy Pelosi took office as the first woman to serve as Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.
2008	The U.S. fell into recession as the global financial crisis began.
2009	Barack Obama took office as the first African American to serve as president of the United States of America.
	The Tea Party emerged as a political organization in support of smaller government and conservative interpretation of the Constitution.

	Sonia Sotomayor took office as the first Hispanic Supreme Court justice.
<b>2010</b>	After an explosion and fire, the Deepwater Horizon oil rig spilled millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico in the largest off-shore spill in U.S. history.
	The military policy of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” which banned openly gay men and women from serving in the military, was repealed.
<b>2011</b>	The U.S. launched Operation Odyssey Dawn in coordination with the United Nations’ military intervention in the Libyan civil war.
	2011 marked a remarkably damaging year for tornadoes with record-high death tolls in affected states. A tornado in Joplin, Missouri, was recorded as the deadliest tornado in U.S. history since the birth of modern weather forecasting.
	Osama bin Laden, founder of the terrorist organization al-Qaeda, was shot and killed by U.S. Navy SEALs.
	The “Occupy” movement spread throughout the country as a response to economic inequality.

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