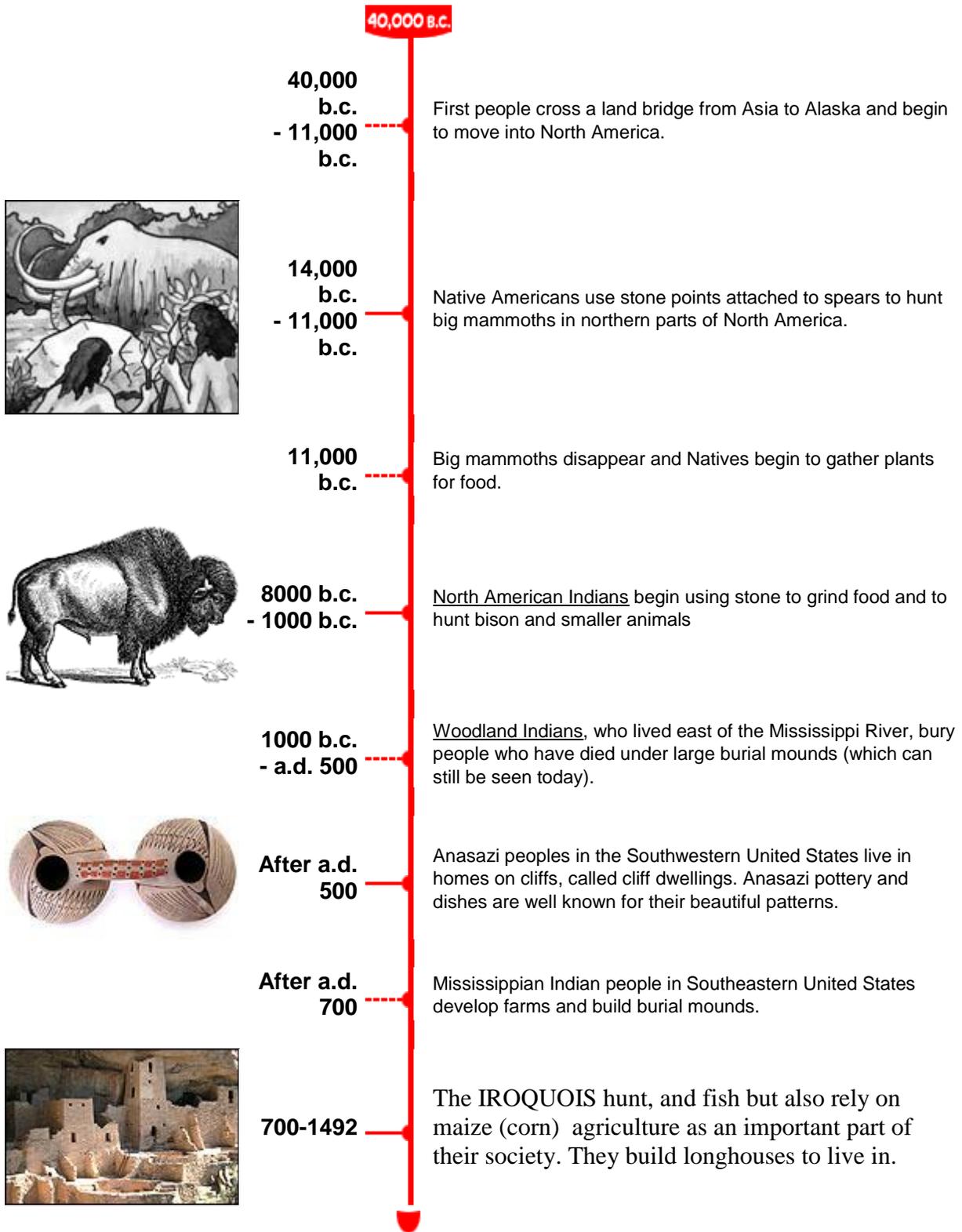


U.S. History Timeline



1492



1492 --- Christopher Columbus sails across the Atlantic Ocean and reaches an island in the Bahamas in the Caribbean Sea.

1513 --- Juan Ponce de León explores the Florida coast.



1524 --- Giovanni da Verrazano explores the coast from Carolina north to Nova Scotia, enters New York harbor.

1540 --- Francisco Vázquez de Coronado explores the Southwest.



1565 --- St. Augustine, Florida, the first town established by Europeans in the United States, is founded by the Spanish. Later burned by the English in 1586.



1607 --- Jamestown, Virginia, the first English settlement in North America, is founded by Captain John Smith

1609 --- Henry Hudson sails into New York Harbor, explores Hudson River. Spaniards settle Santa Fe, New Mexico.

1619 --- The first African slaves are brought to Jamestown. (Slavery is made legal in 1650.)



1620 --- Pilgrims from England arrive at Plymouth, Massachusetts, on the Mayflower.

1626 --- Peter Minuit buys Manhattan island for the Dutch from Man-a-hat-a Indians for goods worth \$24. The island is renamed New Amsterdam.

1630 --- Boston is founded by Massachusetts colonists led by John Winthrop.



1634 - Maryland is founded as a Catholic colony, with religious freedom for all granted in 1649.

1664 - The English seize New Amsterdam from the Dutch. The city is renamed New York.

1699 - French settlers move into Mississippi and Louisiana. In New France they mainly trade in furs and fish.

1732 - Benjamin Franklin begins publishing Poor Richard's Almanack.



Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

was a great American leader, printer, scientist, and writer.

In 1732, he began publishing a magazine called Poor Richard's Almanack. Poor Richard was a make-believe person who gave advice about common sense and honesty.

Many of Poor Richard's sayings are still known today. Among the most famous are "God helps them that help themselves" and "Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."

1754 -1763 - French and Indian War between England and France. The French are defeated and lose their lands in Canada and the American Midwest.

1764 -1766 - England places taxes on sugar that comes from their North American colonies. England also requires colonists to buy stamps to help pay for royal troops. Colonists protest, and the Stamp Act is repealed in 1766.

1770 - Boston Massacre: English troops fire on a group of people protesting English taxes.

1773 - Boston Tea Party: English tea is thrown into the harbor to protest a tax on tea.



1775 - Fighting at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, marks the beginning of the American Revolution.

1776 - The Declaration of Independence is approved July 4 by the Continental Congress (made up of representatives from the American colonies).



Portion of The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

1781

British General Cornwallis surrenders to the Americans at Yorktown, Virginia, ending the fighting in the Revolutionary War.

1784

1784

The first successful daily newspaper, the Pennsylvania Packet & General Advertiser, is published.

1787

The Constitutional Convention meets to write a Constitution for the U.S.



Who Attended the Convention?

The Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia in the hot summer of 1787.

Most of the great founders of America attended. Among those present were George Washington, James Madison, and John Adams. They met to form a new government that would be strong and, at the same time, protect the liberties that were fought for in the American Revolution. The Constitution they created is still the law of the United States.

1789

The new Constitution is approved by the states. George Washington is chosen as the first president.

1800

The federal government moves to a new capital, Washington, D.C.



1803

The U.S. makes the Louisiana Purchase from France. The Purchase doubled the area of the U.S.



1804

Lewis and Clark explore what is now the northwestern United States.



1812
-1814

War of 1812 with Great Britain: British forces burn the Capitol and White House. Francis Scott Key writes the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner."

1820

The Missouri Compromise bans slavery west of the Mississippi River and north of 36°30' latitude, except in Missouri.

1823

The Monroe Doctrine warns European countries not to interfere in the Americas.

1825

The Erie Canal opens and links New York City with the Great Lakes.

1831

The Liberator, a newspaper opposing slavery, is published in Boston.

1836

Texans fighting for independence from Mexico are defeated at the Alamo.

1838

Cherokee Indians are forced to move to Oklahoma, along "The Trail of Tears."



"The Trail of Tears"

The Cherokee Indians living in Georgia were forced, by the state government of Georgia, to leave in 1838. They were sent to Oklahoma. On the long march, thousands died because of disease and the cold weather.

1844

The first telegraph line connects Washington and Baltimore.

1846
-1848

U.S. war with Mexico: Mexico is defeated and the United States takes control of the Republic of Texas and of Mexican territories in the West.



1848

The discovery of gold in California leads to a "rush" of 80,000 people to the West in search of gold.

1852

Uncle Tom's Cabin is published.



UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel about the sufferings of slaves was an instant bestseller in the North and banned in most of the South. When President Abraham Lincoln met Stowe, he called her "the little lady who started this war" (the Civil War).



1858

Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas debate about slavery during their Senate campaign in Illinois.

1860

Abraham Lincoln is elected president.

1861

The Civil War begins.

1863

President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing most slaves.

1865

The Civil War ends as the South surrenders. President Lincoln is assassinated.



Civil War Dead and Wounded

The U.S. Civil War between the North and South lasted four years (1861-1865) and resulted in the death or wounding of more than 600,000 people.

Little was known at the time about the spread of diseases. As a result, many casualties were also the result of illnesses such as influenza, measles, and infections from battle wounds.

1869

The first railroad connecting the East and West coasts is completed.

1890

Battle of Wounded Knee is fought in South Dakota- the last major battle between Indians and U.S. troops.

1898

Spanish-American War: The U.S. defeats Spain, gains control of the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

1900

1903

The United States begins digging the Panama Canal. The canal opens in 1914, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.



1908

Henry Ford introduces the Model T car, priced at \$850.



1916

Jeannette Rankin of Montana becomes the first woman elected to Congress.

1917

1918

The United States joins World War I on the side of the Allies against Germany.



World War I

In World War I the United States fought with Great Britain, France, and Russia (the Allies) against Germany and Austria-Hungary. The Allies won the war in 1918.

1927

Charles A. Lindbergh becomes the first person to fly alone nonstop across the Atlantic Ocean.

1929

A stock market crash marks the beginning of the Great Depression.

The Great Depression

The stock market crash of October 1929 led to a period of severe hardship for the American people-the Great Depression. As many as 25 percent of all workers could not find jobs. The Depression lasted until the early 1940s. The Depression also led to a great change in politics. In 1932, Franklin D. Roosevelt, a Democrat, was elected president. He served as president for 12 years, longer than any other president.



1933

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal increases government help to people hurt by the Depression.

1941

Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The United States enters World War II.

1945

Germany and Japan surrender, ending World War II. Japan surrenders after the U.S. drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

1947

Jackie Robinson becomes the first black baseball player in the major leagues when he joins the Brooklyn Dodgers.

1950

1953

U.S. armed forces fight in the Korean War.



1954

The U.S. Supreme Court forbids racial segregation in public schools.

School Segregation

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that separate schools for black

students and white students were not equal. The Court said such schools were against the U.S. Constitution. The ruling also applied to other forms of segregation-separation of the races that were supported by some states.



- 1963 --- President John Kennedy is assassinated.
- 1964 --- Congress passes the Civil Rights Act, which outlaws discrimination in voting and jobs.
- 1965 --- The United States sends large numbers of soldiers to fight in the Vietnam War.
- 1968 --- Civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated in Memphis. Senator Robert F. Kennedy is assassinated in Los Angeles.
- 1969 --- U.S. Astronaut Neil Armstrong becomes the first person to walk on the moon.
- 1973 --- U.S. participation in the Vietnam War ends.
- 1974 --- President Richard Nixon resigns because of the Watergate scandal.

Watergate

In June 1972, five men were arrested in the Watergate building in Washington, D.C., for trying to bug telephones in the offices of the Democratic National Committee. Some of those arrested worked for the committee to reelect President Richard Nixon. Later it was discovered that Nixon was helping to hide information about the break-in.

- 1979 --- U.S. hostages are taken in Iran, beginning a 444-day crisis that ends with their release in 1981.
- 1981 --- Sandra Day O'Connor becomes the first woman on the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 1985 --- U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev begin working together to improve relations between their countries.
- 1991 --- The Persian Gulf War: The United States and its allies defeat Iraq.
- 1992 --- Bill Clinton, a Democrat, is elected president, defeating George Bush.
- 1994 --- The Republican Party wins majorities in both houses of Congress for the first time in 40 years.
- 1998 --- The federal government announces that, for the first time in many years, it will begin receiving more money than it spends.
- 1999 --- After an impeachment trial, the Senate finds President Clinton not guilty.
- 2000 --- George W. Bush narrowly defeats Al Gore in a hotly fought battle for the presidency. The race is finally settled by the U.S. Supreme Court in December.

2001

Hijacked jets crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, September 11, killing about 3,000 people.

2003

U.S.- led forces invade Iraq and remove dictator Saddam Hussein