

## TIME LINES

### What is a Time Line?

A **time line** is a horizontal or vertical line divided into sections usually by years, decades, or centuries. A time line shows **important events in history** arranged in chronological order. **Chronological** means in the order they actually happened. Some time lines may show just one subject, such as inventions, space travel, events in the life of one person, or dates of wars.

Here is a time line of some important events in **American history**.

8000 B.C. Native Americans begin to settle North America.



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now

part of

1000 Viking explorers may have explored the North American continent.



1492 Christopher Columbus sails to an island in the Caribbean. Thinking he has reached India, he calls the natives Indians.

1513 Ponce de Leon explores the coast of what is now Florida.

1607 Jamestown, Virginia is first English settlement on the continent.



1609 Spain begins to settle in New Mexico.

1619 First African slaves are brought to Jamestown.

1620 Mayflower brings the Pilgrims to what is now Massachusetts.

1706 Birth of Benjamin Franklin



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A yellow scroll with the text 'Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America' written in a cursive font.

1781 End of American Revolution. The thirteen original colonies become the United States, a free and independent country.

1787 The Constitution is written in Philadelphia, forming the new government. It is still the law today.

1789 George Washington becomes the first president of the new country.

1800 Washington, DC becomes the capital of the U.S.

1803 Louisiana Purchase doubles the size of our country.

1804 Lewis and Clark explore the northwest.

1812 War of 1812 with Great Britain, Francis Scott Key writes *The Star Spangled Banner*.



1836 Texans fight for independence from Mexico at the Alamo.

1848 Gold is discovered in California.

1860 Abraham Lincoln is elected president. The Pony Express delivers mail to the frontier.

1861 Civil War between the North and the South over



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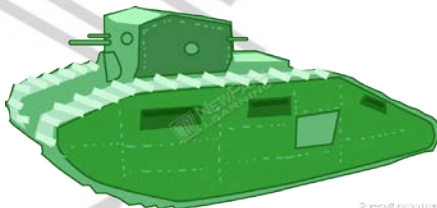
1865 Civil War ends and Lincoln is assassinated.

1869 Transcontinental Railroad connects the east and west coast.

1876 Alexander Graham Bell invents the first telephone.

1903 The Wright brothers invent and fly the first airplane 120 feet.

1917-1918 World War I



1920 The 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the constitution gives women the right to vote.

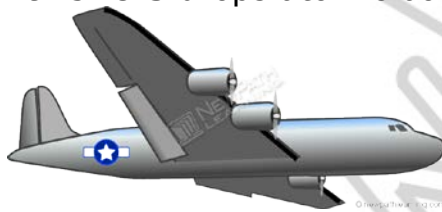
1928 The first animated cartoon with sound is shown in a theatre.

1929-1940 The Great Depression

1932 Franklin D. Roosevelt elected president.

1941 Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor begins World War II.

1945 U.S drops atomic bombs on Japan which ends WWII.



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ic schools.

1955 Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus.

1959 Hawaii becomes the 50<sup>th</sup> state.

1964 Congress passes the Civil Rights Act.

1968 Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated.

1969 Neil Armstrong and Ed Aldrin walk on the moon.

1974 President Richard M. Nixon resigns.

1982 Personal Computer is invented.

2000 Election - Problems with counting ballots. George W. Bush becomes president when U.S. Supreme Court decides.

2001 Sept. 11 - Hijacked jets crash into World Trade Center and Pentagon.

2003 U.S. at war with Iraq

2008 Barack Obama is elected the first African American president of the United States.

### Try this!

Where on the timeline is the year you were born?  
In what years were your parents and grandparents born?  
Find out what important event happened or what was invented in the year you were born.



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