US History Timeline

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| c. 12,000 B.C. | Native American Culture flourishes |  |
| A.D. 1000 | Norse seaman Leif Ericsson lands in Newfoundland, which he calls Vinland.  Read more: Before 1600 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0922727.html#ixzz3KeKPpHzG |  |
| 1492 | Christopher Columbus, financed by Spain, makes the first of four voyages to the New World. He lands in the Bahamas (Oct. 12)  Read more: Before 1600 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0922727.html#ixzz3KeKZBB4y |  |
| 1513 | Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León lands on the coast of Florida.  Read more: Before 1600 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0922727.html#ixzz3KeKl3R8l |  |
| 1565 | Saint Augustine, Florida, settled by the Spanish, becomes the first permanent European colony in North America.  Read more: Before 1600 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0922727.html#ixzz3KeKruxtX |  |
| 1607 | Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in America, is established by the London Company in southeast Virginia (May 14 o.s.)  Read more: 1600–1799 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902417.html#ixzz3KeKySl6k |  |
| 1619 | The House of Burgesses, the first representative assembly in America, meets for the first time in Virginia (July 30 o.s.). The first African slaves are brought to Jamestown (summer).  Read more: 1600–1799 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902417.html#ixzz3KeL7iKDU |  |
| 1620 | The Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts is established by Pilgrims from England (Dec. 11 o.s.). Before disembarking from their ship, the Mayflower, 41 male passengers sign the Mayflower Compact, an agreement that forms the basis of the colony's government  Read more: 1600–1799 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902417.html#ixzz3KeLDuLoV |  |
| 1650 | Colonial population is estimated at 50,400. |  |
| 1664 | English seize New Amsterdam (city and colony) from the Dutch and rename it New York (Sept.).  Read more: 1600–1799 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902417.html#ixzz3KeLRwCTt |  |
| 1752 | Britain and the British colonies switch from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar (Sept. 2).  Read more: 1600–1799 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902417.html#ixzz3KeLaP2J2 |  |
| 1754–1763 | French and Indian War: Final conflict in the ongoing struggle between the British and French for control of eastern North America. The British win a decisive victory over the French on the Plains of Abraham outside Quebec (Sept. 13, 1759) and, by the Treaty of Paris (signed Feb. 10, 1763), formally gain control of Canada and all the French possessions east of the Mississippi.  Read more: 1600–1799 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902417.html#ixzz3KeLi69bl |  |
| 1770 | Boston Massacre:British troops fire into a mob, killing five men and leading to intense public protests (March 5).  Read more: 1600–1799 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902417.html#ixzz3KeLrMX4s |  |
| 1773 | Boston Tea Party:Group of colonial patriots disguised as Mohawk Indians board three ships in Boston harbor and dump more than 300 crates of tea overboard as a protest against theBritish tea tax(Dec. 16).  Read more: 1600–1799 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902417.html#ixzz3KeM1B7MH |  |
| 1774 | First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia, with 56 delegates representing every colony except Georgia. Delegates include Patrick Henry, George Washington, and Samuel Adams (Sept. 5–Oct. 26).  Read more: 1600–1799 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902417.html#ixzz3KeM7JXfN |  |
| 1775–1783 | American Revolution: War of independence fought between Great Britain and the 13 British colonies on the eastern seaboard of North America. Battles of Lexington and Concord, Mass., between the British Army and colonial minutemen, mark the beginning of the war (April 19, 1775). Battle-weary and destitute Continental army spends brutally cold winter and following spring at Valley Forge, Pa. (Dec. 19, 1777–June 19, 1778). British general Charles Cornwallis surrenders to Gen. George Washington at Yorktown, Va. (Oct. 19, 1781). Great Britain formally acknowledges American independence in the Treaty of Paris, which officially brings the war to a close (Sept. 3, 1783).  Read more: 1600–1799 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902417.html#ixzz3KeMCp0Qg |  |
| 1776 | Continental Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia (July 4).  Read more: 1600–1799 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902417.html#ixzz3KeMJZBhg |  |
| 1777 | Continental Congress approves the first official flag of the United States (June 14). Continental Congress adopts the Articles of Confederation, the first U.S. constitution (Nov. 15).  Read more: 1600–1799 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902417.html#ixzz3KeMSCzyH |  |
| 1786 | Shays's Rebellion erupts (Aug.); farmers from New Hampshire to South Carolina take up arms to protest high state taxes and stiff penalties for failure to pay.  Read more: 1600–1799 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902417.html#ixzz3KeMbAXGM |  |
| 1787 | Constitutional Convention, made up of delegates from 12 of the original 13 colonies, meets in Philadelphia to draft the U.S. Constitution (May–Sept.).  Read more: 1600–1799 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902417.html#ixzz3KeMmEHLa |  |
| 1789 | George Washington is unanimously elected president of the United States in a vote by state electors (Feb. 4). U.S. Constitution goes into effect, having been ratified by nine states (March 4). U.S. Congress (Web:clerkweb.house.gov/histrecs/househis/lists/sessions.htm) meets for the first time at Federal Hall in New York City (March 4). Washington is inaugurated as president at Federal Hall in New York City (April 30).  Read more: 1600–1799 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902417.html#ixzz3KeMtiWVy |  |
| 1790 | U.S. Supreme Court meets for the first time at the Merchants Exchange Building in New York City (Feb. 2). The court, made up of one chief justice and five associate justices, hears its first case in 1792. The nation's first census shows that the population has climbed to nearly 4 million.  Read more: 1600–1799 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902417.html#ixzz3KeMydfqL |  |
| 1791 | First ten amendments to the Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights, are ratified (Dec. 15).  Read more: 1600–1799 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902417.html#ixzz3KeN50An7 |  |
| 1793 | Washington's second inauguration is held in Philadelphia (March 4).Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin greatly increases the demand for slave labor.  Read more: 1600–1799 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902417.html#ixzz3KeNF78BB |  |
| 1797 | John Adams is inaugurated as the second president in Philadelphia (March 4).  Read more: 1600–1799 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902417.html#ixzz3KeNL1JyW |  |
| 1800 | The U.S. capital is moved from Philadelphia to Washington, DC (June 15). U.S. Congress meets in Washington, DC, for the first time (Nov. 17). Gabriel Prosser, an enslaved African American blacksmith, organizes a slave revolt intending to march on Richmond, Virginia. The conspiracy is uncovered, and Prosser and a number of the rebels are hanged. Virginia's slave laws are consequently tightened.  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeNR8JOS |  |
| 1801 | Thomas Jefferson is inaugurated as the third president in Washington, DC (March 4).  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeNd7Y2T |  |
| 1803 | Marbury v. Madison: Landmark Supreme Court decision greatly expands the power of the Court by establishing its right to declare acts of Congress unconstitutional (Feb. 24). Louisiana Purchase: United States agrees to pay France $15 million for the Louisiana Territory, which extends west from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains and comprises about 830,000 sq. mi. (treaty signed May 2). As a result, the U.S. nearly doubles in size.  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeNjkEyd |  |
| 1804 | Lewis and Clark set out from St. Louis, Mo., on expedition to explore the West and find a route to the Pacific Ocean. (May 14).  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeNra4lB |  |
| 1805 | Jefferson's second inauguration (March 4). Lewis and Clark reach the Pacific Ocean (Nov. 15).  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeNwuvBC |  |
| 1809 | James Madison is inaugurated as the fourth president (March 4).  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeO2QVBL |  |
| 1812–1814 | War of 1812: U.S. declares war on Britain over British interference with American maritime shipping and westward expansion (June 18, 1812). Madison's second inauguration (March 4, 1813). British capture Washington, DC, and set fire to White House and Capitol (Aug. 1814). Francis Scott Key writes Star-Spangled Banner as he watches British attack on Fort McHenry at Baltimore (Sept. 13–14, 1814). Treaty of Ghent is signed, officially ending the war (Dec. 24, 1814).  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeO8hHsA |  |
| 1817 | James Monroe is inaugurated as the fifth president (March 4).  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeOnOOmP |  |
| 1819 | Spain agrees to cede Florida to the United States (Feb. 22). McCulloch v. Maryland: Landmark Supreme Court decision upholds the right of Congress to establish a national bank, a power implied but not specifically enumerated by the Constitution.  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeOtgoHh |  |
| 1820 | Missouri Compromise: In an effort to maintain the balance between free and slave states, Maine (formerly part of Massachusetts) is admitted as a free state so that Missouri can be admitted as a slave state; except for Missouri, slavery is prohibited in the Louisiana Purchase lands north of latitude 36°30' (March 3).  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeP5Mjw2 |  |
| 1821 | Monroe's second inauguration (March 5). |  |
| 1822 | Denmark Vesey, an enslaved African American carpenter who had purchased his freedom, plans a slave revolt with the intent to lay siege on Charleston, South Carolina. The plot is discovered, and Vesey and 34 coconspirators are hanged  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KePiu3Bc |  |
| 1823 | Monroe Doctrine: In his annual address to Congress, President Monroe declares that the American continents are henceforth off-limits for further colonization by European powers (Dec. 2).  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KePo7Jcb |  |
| 1824 | Gibbons v. Ogden: Landmark Supreme Court decision broadly defines Congress's right to regulate interstate commerce (March 2)  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KePuD93q |  |
| 1825 | John Quincy Adams is inaugurated as the sixth president (March 4). Erie Canal, linking the Hudson River to Lake Erie, is opened for traffic (Oct. 26).  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeQ0Y6m2 |  |
| 1828 | Construction is begun on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the first public railroad in the U.S. (July 4).  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeQ7aPis |  |
| 1829 | Andrew Jackson is inaugurated as seventh president (March 4).  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeQEeKPe |  |
| 1830 | President Jackson signs the Indian Removal Act, which authorizes the forced removal of Native Americans living in the eastern part of the country to lands west of the Mississippi River (May 28). By the late 1830s the Jackson administration has relocated nearly 50,000 Native Americans.  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeQOmKtE |  |
| 1831 | Nat Turner, an enslaved African American preacher, leads the most significant slave uprising in American history. He and his band of about 80 followers launch a bloody, day-long rebellion in Southampton County, Virginia. The militia quells the rebellion, and Turner is eventually hanged. As a consequence, Virginia institutes much stricter slave laws.  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeQVYCBs |  |
|  | William Lloyd Garrison begins publishing the Liberator, a weekly paper that advocates the complete abolition of slavery. He becomes one of the most famous figures in the abolitionist movement.  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeQYi0vw |  |
| 1833 | Jackson's second inauguration (March 4) |  |
| 1836 | Texas declares its independence from Mexico (March 1). Texan defenders of the Alamo are all killed during siege by the Mexican Army (Feb. 24–March 6). Texans defeat Mexicans at San Jacinto (April 21)  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeQllG2o |  |
| 1837 | Martin Van Buren is inaugurated as the eighth president (March 4).  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeQqv1pW |  |
| 1838 | More than 15,000 Cherokee Indians are forced to march from Georgia to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma. Approximately 4,000 die from starvation and disease along the “Trail of Tears.”  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeQvu8rj |  |
| 1841 | William Henry Harrison is inaugurated as the ninth president (March 4). He dies one month later (April 4) and is succeeded in office by his vice president, John Tyler.  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeR1OVlG |  |
| 1845 | U.S. annexes Texas by joint resolution of Congress (March 1). James Polk is inaugurated as the 11th president (March 4). The term “manifest destiny” appears for the first time in a magazine article by John L. O'Sullivan (July–August). It expresses the belief held by many white Americans that the United States is destined to expand across the continent.  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeR6VtS1 |  |
| 1846 | Oregon Treaty fixes U.S.-Canadian border at 49th parallel; U.S. acquires Oregon territory (June 15).  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeRHeQ4Z |  |
|  | The Wilmot Proviso, introduced by Democratic representative David Wilmot of Pennsylvania, attempts to ban slavery in territory gained in the Mexican War The proviso is blocked by Southerners, but continues to enflame the debate over slavery.  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeRKWl7c |  |
| 1846–1848 | Mexican War: U.S. declares war on Mexico in effort to gain California and other territory in Southwest (May 13, 1846). War concludes with signing of Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (Feb. 2, 1848). Mexico recognizes Rio Grande as new boundary with Texas and, for $15 million, agrees to cede territory comprising present-day California, Nevada, Utah, most of New Mexico and Arizona, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming.  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeRSXePp |  |
| 1848 | Gold is discovered at Sutter's Mill in California (Jan. 24); gold rush reaches its height the following year. Women's rights convention is held at Seneca Falls, N.Y. (July 19–20).  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeRXtbgP |  |
| 1849 | Zachary Taylor is inaugurated as the 12th president (March 5).  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeRcm1Jb |  |
|  | Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery and becomes one of the most effective and celebrated members of the Underground Railroad.  Read more: 1800–1849 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903594.html#ixzz3KeRfK2IA |  |
| 1850 | President Taylor dies (July 9) and is succeeded by his vice president, Millard Fillmore.  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeRlIaWg |  |
|  | The continuing debate whether territory gained in the Mexican War should be open to slavery is decided in the Compromise of 1850: California is admitted as a free state, Utah and New Mexico territories are left to be decided by popular sovereignty, and the slave trade in Washington, DC, is prohibited. It also establishes a much stricter fugitive slave law, than the original, passed in 1793.  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeRoAett |  |
| 1852 | Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin is published. It becomes one of the most influential works to stir anti-slavery sentiments.  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeRu5NnY |  |
| 1853 | Franklin Pierce is inaugurated as the 14th president (March 4). Gadsden Purchase treaty is signed; U.S. acquires border territory from Mexico for $10 million (Dec. 30).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeS08dI8> |  |
| 1854 | Congress passes the Kansas-Nebraska Act, establishing the territories of Kansas and Nebraska (May 30). The legislation repeals the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and renews tensions between anti- and proslavery factions.  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeS9ETwE |  |
| 1857 | James Buchanan is inaugurated as the 15th president (March 4). Dred Scott v. Sanford: Landmark Supreme Court decision holds that Congress does not have the right to ban slavery in states and, furthermore, that slaves are not citizens.  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeSESSMW |  |
| 1858 | Abraham Lincoln comes to national attention in a series of seven debates with Sen. Stephen A. Douglas during Illinois state election campaign (Aug.–Oct.).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeSJXGXq |  |
| 1859 | Abolitionist John Brown and 21 followers capture federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Va. (now W. Va.), in an attempt to spark a slave revolt (Oct. 16).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeSOHkkW |  |
| 1860 | Abraham Lincoln is elected president (Nov. 6). South Carolina secedes from the Union (Dec. 20).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeSXht74 |  |
| 1861 | Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana secede (Jan.). Confederate States of America is established (Feb. 8). Jefferson Davis is elected president of the Confederacy (Feb. 9). Texas secedes (March 2). Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated as the 16th president (March 4).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeSdAqQx |  |
| 1861–1865 | Civil War: Conflict between the North (the Union) and the South (the Confederacy) over the expansion of slavery into western states. Confederates attack Ft. Sumter in Charleston, S.C., marking the start of the war (April 12, 1861). Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee secede (April–June). Emancipation Proclamation is issued, freeing slaves in the Confederate states (Jan. 1, 1863). Battle of Gettysburg is fought (July 1–3). President Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address (Nov. 19). Gen. William T. Sherman captures Atlanta (Sept. 2, 1864). Lincoln's second inauguration (March 4, 1865). Gen. Ulysses S. Grant captures Richmond, Va., the capital of the Confederacy (April 3). Confederate general Robert E. Lee surrenders to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, Va., (April 9).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeUMaa1L |  |
| 1863 | Homestead Act becomes law, allowing settlers to claim land (160 acres) after they have lived on it for five years (Jan. 1).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeYTMH1Q |  |
| 1865 | Lincoln is assassinated (April 14) by John Wilkes Booth in Washington, DC, and is succeeded by his vice president, Andrew Johnson. Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution is ratified, prohibiting slavery (Dec. 6).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeYYrwKQ |  |
| 1867 | President Johnson is impeached by the House of Representatives (Feb. 24), but he is acquitted at his trial in the Senate (May 26). Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution is ratified, defining citizenship (July 9).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeYdX45p |  |
| 1869 | Ulysses S. Grant is inaugurated as the 18th president (March 4). Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads are joined at Promontory, Utah, creating first transcontinental railroad (May 10).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeYjRQgO |  |
| 1870 | Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution is ratified, giving blacks the right to vote (Feb. 3).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeYpKxHP> |  |
| 1871 | Chicago fire kills 300 and leaves 90,000 people homeless (Oct. 8–9).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeYygv4l |  |
| 1872 | Crédit Mobilier scandal breaks, involving several members of Congress (Sept.).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeZ4fXjE |  |
| 1873 | Grant's second inauguration (March 4). |  |
| 1876 | Lt. Col. George A. Custer's regiment is wiped out by Sioux Indians under Sitting Bull at the Little Big Horn River, Mont. (June 25).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeZaRkDl |  |
| 1877 | Rutherford B. Hayes is inaugurated as the 19th president (March 5). The first telephone line is built from Boston to Somerville, Mass.; the following year, President Hayes has the first telephone installed in the White House.  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeZfxBUq |  |
| 1881 | James A. Garfield is inaugurated as the 20th president (March 4). He is shot (July 2) by Charles Guiteau in Washington, DC, and later dies from complications of his wounds in Elberon, N.J. (Sept. 19). Garfield's vice president, Chester Alan Arthur, succeeds him in office.  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeZlNxTI |  |
| 1882 | U.S. adopts standard time (Nov. 18). |  |
| 1885 | Grover Cleveland is inaugurated as the 22nd president (March 4).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeZxTgLj |  |
| 1886 | Statue of Liberty is dedicated (Oct. 28). American Federation of Labor is organized (Dec.).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeaAr1h3 |  |
| 1889 | Benjamin Harrison is inaugurated as the 23rd president (March 4). Oklahoma is opened to settlers (April 22).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeaH6GeU> |  |
| 1890 | National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) is founded, with Elizabeth Cady Stanton as president. Sherman Antitrust Act is signed into law, prohibiting commercial monopolies (July 2). Last major battle of the Indian Wars occurs at Wounded Knee in South Dakota (Dec. 29). In reporting the results of the 1890 census, the Census Bureau announces that the West has been settled and the frontier is closed.  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeaOQbBR |  |
| 1892 | Ellis Island becomes chief immigration station of the U.S. (Jan. 1).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeaUk1DV |  |
| 1893 | Grover Cleveland is inaugurated a second time, as the 24th president (March 4). He is the only president to serve two nonconsecutive terms.  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeacRUvi |  |
| 1896 | Plessy v. Ferguson: Landmark Supreme Court decision holds that racial segregation is constitutional, paving the way for the repressive Jim Crow laws in the South (May 18).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeaifUm5 |  |
| 1897 | William McKinley is inaugurated as the 25th president (March 4).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3Keap1a6Z |  |
| 1898 | Spanish-American War: USS Maine is blown up in Havana harbor (Feb. 15), prompting U.S. to declare war on Spain (April 25). Treaty of Paris is signed, ending the Spanish-American War (Dec. 10); Spain gives up control of Cuba, which becomes an independent republic, and cedes Puerto Rico, Guam, and (for $20 million) the Philippines to the U.S.  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3KeaukGaJ |  |
| 1898 | U.S. annexes Hawaii by an act of Congress (July 7).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3Keazm8To |  |
| 1899 | U.S. acquires American Samoa by treaty with Great Britain and Germany (Dec. 2).  Read more: 1850–1899 | Infoplease.com http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903595.html#ixzz3Keb4VZbF |  |
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