

Useful Information-Important Dates in American History

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

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

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

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



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.

1789-The new Constitution is approved by the states. George Washington is chosen as the first president.

1803-President Thomas Jefferson makes the Louisiana Purchase from France.



1804-Lewis and Clark explore far into the northwestern United States.

1812-War of 1812 with Great Britain/ Francis Scott Key writes "The Star-Spangled Banner".

1861-The Civil War Begins.



1863-President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation freeing most slaves.

1865-The Civil War ends as the South surrenders. Lincoln is assassinated.

1908-Henry Ford introduces the Model T car, the first auto bought by thousands of people.



1917-1918-The United States joins WWI on the side of the Allies against Germany.

1929-A stock market crash marks the beginning of the Great Depression.

1941-Japan attacks the U.S. navy base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The U.S. enters WWII against Japan, Germany, and Italy.

1945-Germany and Japan surrender, ending WWII. Japan's surrender comes after the U.S. drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

1950-1953-U.S. armed forces fight in the Korean War.

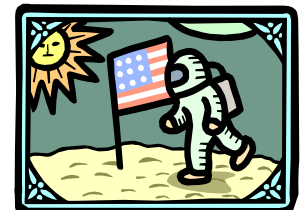
1954-The U.S. Supreme Court outlaws racial segregation in public schools. Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education

1962-Cuban Missile Crisis: The U.S. forces the Soviet Union to pull its missiles out of Cuba.

1963-President John F. Kennedy assassinated.

1965-The United States sends large numbers of soldiers to fight in the Vietnam War.

1969-U.S. astronaut Neil Armstrong becomes first person to walk on the moon.



1973-U.S. participation in Vietnam ends.

1991-The Persian Gulf War: The U.S. and its allies defeat Iraq.

1995-The Federal Building in Oklahoma City is destroyed by a terrorist bomb.

2001-Terrorists crash airliners into the World Trade Centers, the Pentagon, and a Pennsylvania field.

2003-US attacks Iraq to oust Saddam Hussein.