**Famous dates in U.S. History**

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| March 4, 1865 | **Assassination of Abraham Lincoln**  Abraham Lincoln was assassinated at Ford’s Theatre. His assassination was part of a plot to help the Confederacy. Lincoln’s shooter was John Wilkes Booth, a famous actor. |
| 1803 | **Louisiana Purchase**  The United States acquired 828,000 square miles of land in the Louisiana territory. This land was originally owned by France, but Thomas Jefferson negotiated a deal to purchase it for just $11,250,000. The United States also agreed to forgive $3,750,000 worth of France’s debts. |
| 1945 | **Manhattan project**  Scientists built the first atomic bomb as a part of the Manhattan Project. The total cost of this project was more than $2 billion. |
|  | Assassination of John F. Kennedy |
|  | The American Revolution |
|  | The Civil War |
|  | September 11, 2001 |
| July 20, 1969 | **Apollo 11 landed on the Moon**  Apollo 11 was the first manned spacecraft to land on the moon. Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong took the first steps on the moon on July 20, 1969. |
| July 15, 1752 | Benjamin Franklin's Kite experiment took place |
| July 4, 1776 | **The Declaration of Independence was approved by congress**  Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Roger Sherman and Robert Livingston drafted the Declaration of Independence. This document asserted the colonists’ independence from the British monarchy. |
| April 30, 1789 | George Washington inaugurated as first president |
| 1791 | U.S. Bill of Rights was ratified |
| 1692 | **The Salem Witch Trials**  Hundreds of people were accused of practicing witchcraft. Nineteen of them were hanged after being convicted of witchcraft. |
| 1775 | **The Revolutionary War began**  a response to the Stamp Act of 1765. The colonists felt that the Stamp Act was unconstitutional, but the British government said it had the right to tax the colonists. Although the British military succeeded in the early stages of the war, the colonists were victorious. |
|  | **The U.S. Constitution was ratified**  The Constitution was written to establish the United States government. This document established the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of the government. The Constitution also contains the Bill of Rights, which grants certain rights to U.S. citizens. |
| 1084 | **Slavery abolished in the North**  The northern states started making slavery illegal in 1776. In 1804, the last northern state finally abolished slavery. |
| 1836 | **The Battle of Alamo**  The Battle of the Alamo was a famous part of the Texas Revolution. In 1836, General Santa Anna and his troops attacked the Alamo Mission, which is near present-day San Antonio. All but two of the Texan troops were killed in this battle. |
|  | **The Mexican-American War**  The Mexican-American War lasted from 1846 to 1845. American troops occupied California, New Mexico, and parts of Mexico. The Mexican government would not agree to meet the demands of the Americans, so American troops invaded Mexico City. |
| 1848 | **California Gold Rush**  Someone found gold at Sutter’s Mill – a California sawmill – in 1848. This made a lot of people move to California with the hope of finding a fortune. |
| 1861-1865 | **The Civil War**  The Civil War broke out in 1861. The war occurred for several reasons, but one of the most important issues was slavery. There were also many economic differences between the North and South. |
| 1863 | **Slavery Abolished**  In 1863, Abraham Lincoln freed more than three million slaves with the Emancipation Proclamation. He actually wrote the proclamation in 1862, but it did not take effect until January 1, 1863. |
| 1898 | **The Spanish-American War**  The Spanish-American War was a war between the United States and Spain. This war started because the Americans interfered in the Cuban War of Independence. |
| 1914 | **America joins WWI**  World War I started in 1914, but the United States did not join the war until 1917. This war involved the Allies (Russia, France, and the United Kingdom) and the Central Powers (Germany and Austria-Hungary). This war broke out due to the policies of several European empires. |
| 1920 | **Women can vote**  In 1920, women were granted the right to vote with the addition of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution. The amendment was introduced in 1878, but it was not ratified until 1920. |
| October 24, 1929 | **The start of the Great Depression**  A stock market crash occurred in the United States. This event was the beginning of the Great Depression, which lasted for ten years. |
| December 7, 1941 | **The Attack of Pearl Harbor**  Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor, a Hawaiian naval base. This attack was an attempt to keep the U.S. Navy from interfering with Japanese military actions. |
| June 6, 1944 | **D-Day of WWII**  This was a major victory for Allied troops in World War II, but more than 9,000 soldiers were wounded or killed. |
| 1950 | The Korean War started in 1950 and lasted until 1953. It was a war between the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea. U.S. troops supported the Republic of Korea in this war. |
| 1954 | **End of racial separation of U.S. schools**  Up until 1954, white Americans and Americans of other races went to separate schools. This practice ended in 1954, after the Supreme Court made its decision in the Brown v. Board of Education case. |
| 1955-1975 | **The Vietnam War**  The conflict was between North Vietnam and South Vietnam. The United States supported South Vietnam in this war. |
| 1962 | **Cuban Missile Crisis**  In 1962, a spy plane discovered that the Soviet Union was building nuclear missiles in Cuba. President Kennedy placed a naval blockade around the island to prevent the Soviet Union from bringing in more supplies. After thirteen days, the Soviet Union agreed to take down the weapon sites if the United States would not invade Cuba. |
| November 22, 1963 | **Assassination of John F. Kennedy**  Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated John F. Kennedy. Oswald was arrested a short time later, but he was killed by Jack Ruby when being transferred to the county jail. |
| April 14, 1968 | **Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr**.  Martin Luther King was a civil rights leader and activist. On April 14, 1968, King was shot and killed by James Earl Ray. |
| 1973 | **Watergate**  The Watergate political scandal occurred when members of the Nixon administration participated in a break-in at the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee. Nixon resigned in 1974 due to the scandal. |
| January 28, 1986 | **The Challenger Explosion**  Space shuttle Challenger launched on January 28, 1986. Christa McAuliffe, a teacher, was aboard the spacecraft. Challenger exploded just 73 seconds after takeoff, an accident that occurred due to several factors. |
| April 19, 1995. | **The Oklahoma City bombing**  This was a domestic terrorist attack that killed 168 people. Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols were responsible for the attack. |
| 2000 | **Bush v. Gore Presidential Election**  In the 2000 election, George Bush won the presidency even though Al Gore won more popular votes. The election results were challenged, but Bush eventually took office. He was elected to a second term in 2004. |
| September 11, 2001 | **September 11th**  terrorists took control of four airplanes. They crashed two planes into the World Trade Center in New York and one plane into the Pentagon. The fourth plane crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. This was the deadliest attack ever to occur on American soil. |
| 2005 | **Hurricane Katrina**  Hurricane Katrina was a destructive hurricane that occurred in 2005. It was one of the five deadliest hurricanes in United States history, killing more than 1,800 people. It also caused more than $80 billion in property damage. |
| 2008 | **Obama voted as US President**  Barack Obama was voted the president of the United States. He was the first African American person elected to this position. |
| May 2, 2011 | **Osama Bin Laden killed**  Osama bin Laden was the head of al-Qaeda, the terrorist group responsible for the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2011. On May 2, 2011, U.S. forces invaded his compound in Pakistan. Bin Laden was killed in the raid. |
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(Create your own significant dates in the empty spaces!)