

Historical Dates

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July 4, 1776

American colonists declare independence from Great Britain.

October 19, 1781

British General Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown, ending the American Revolution.

December 20, 1803

The Louisiana Purchase is completed, nearly doubling the United States' total land area.

January 1, 1863

President Lincoln signs into effect the Emancipation Proclamation, abolishing slavery in the U.S.

April 9, 1865

Confederate forces agree to unconditional surrender, ending the American Civil War

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July 24, 1870

The first transcontinental train arrives in New York City from San Francisco

October 21, 1879

Thomas Alva Edison develops the first incandescent light bulb

December 17, 1903

The Wright brothers' *Flyer I* goes airborne, marking mankind's first powered flight

October 7, 1913

The age of mass automobile manufacturing commences as the first Ford Model T rolls off the assembly line

August 26, 1920

The 19th Amendment is ratified, granting American women the right to vote

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October 29, 1929

"Black Friday" opens with a stock market crash that will trigger the Great Depression

December 7, 1941

Japanese naval forces attack Pearl Harbor, drawing the United States into World War II

June 6, 1944

"D-Day" sees U.S.-led forces land at Normandy, marking a turning point in WWII's western theater

December 1, 1955

Rosa Parks' single act of protest touches off a citywide bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama

October 28, 1962

Nuclear disaster is averted as the "Cuban Missile Crisis" standoff between US and Soviet leaders is resolved

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August 28, 1963

Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers his famous "I Have a Dream" speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial

July 20, 1969

NASA astronaut Neil Armstrong becomes the first man to walk on the surface of the moon

December 10, 1987

President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev sign the first treaty to reduce nuclear arsenals

September 11, 2001

Terrorists attack the World Trade Center in New York City, forcing US-led retaliation in a "War on Terror"