

Historical Timeline

1920s Art deco, Harlem Renaissance, Jazz Age, dance craze, flappers, baseball

1927 Great Mississippi Flood

1927 Tornado devastation in St. Louis, western and midtown (Sept 29)

1927 Transatlantic flight by Charles Lindbergh

1929 Al Capone's St. Valentine's Day Massacre (Feb 14)

1929 Herbert Hoover becomes president (Mar 4)

1929 Wall Street stock market crash (Oct 29)

1930s Movies, parlor games, board games, radio, big bands, baseball

1930 Worldwide Depression sets in

1932 Franklin D. Roosevelt becomes president (Mar 4)

1932 Air conditioning invented

1932 Amelia Earhart flies across Pacific, Lindbergh baby kidnapped

1933 FDR's New Deal, assassination attempt on FDR

1933 Prohibition ends

1934 Bonnie & Clyde killed

1934 Dust Bowl

1935 Social Security begins

1935 Monopoly game invented

1936 North American Heatwave (hottest summer on record, with drought)

1937 Hindenberg disaster (May 6)

1938 War of the Worlds broadcast panic

1938 Hitler annexes Austria (Mar)

1938 Kristallnacht (Nov 9)

1939 Nazis invade Poland

1939 World War II begins (Sept 3)

1939 Germany and USSR conquer and divide Poland

1940s WWII, scrap drives, rationing, victory gardens, women working, baby boom

1940 Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister of Britain

1940 Holland, Belgium, Norway surrender to Germany

1940 Germany begins bombing Britain (Apr 13)

1940 Nylon stocking on sale to the public (May)

1940 German air raids on London (Aug 23), German Blitz (Sept)

1940 British begin air raids on Berlin (Aug 25)

1941 Japanese attack Pearl Harbor (Dec 7)

1942 Japanese-Americans sent to internment camps

1942 Battle of Midway

1943 Dwight D. Eisenhower becomes president (Jan 20)

1944 D-Day (June 6)

1944 Resistance uprising in Paris (Aug 19), liberation (Aug 25)

1945 FDR dies (Apr 12), Harry Truman becomes president

1945 Hitler commits suicide (Apr 30), Germans surrender (May 7), VE Day (May 8)

1945 Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima (Aug 6) and Nagasaki (Aug 9)

1945 Japan surrenders (Aug 14), VJ Day (Sept 2)
 1946 Nuremberg war crimes trials begin (Nov 20)
 1947 Televisions became available to public
 1948 Berlin airlift
 1948 State of Israel founded (May 14)
 1948 Ed Sullivan Show broadcasts on TV
 1949 Berlin splits into East and West (May)

1950s Poodle skirts, blue jeans, saddle shoes, American Bandstand, drive-in movies
 1950 Korean War begins (June 25)
 1950 Sen. J. McCarthy begins communist witch hunt
 1951 Color TV invented
 1952 Immigration & Naturalization Act removes racial/ethnic barrier to citizenship
 1952 Great Smog of London (Dec 5-9)
 1952 Princess Elizabeth becomes queen of England
 1954 Segregation ruled illegal in U.S. (May 17)
 1955 Vietnam War begins (Nov 1)
 1955 Disneyland opens, McDonalds founded
 1955 Rosa Parks refuses to give up her bus seat (Dec 1), bus boycott
 1956 Elvis Presley appears on Ed Sullivan Show
 1957 Arkansas National Guard protect the Little Rock Nine
 1957 Soviet Sputnik launches (Oct)
 1958 Domestic airline passenger service begins
 1958 Hula hoops and Lego blocks invented
 1958 Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward begins
 1959 Tornado damages St. Louis area (Feb 10)

1960s Barbie dolls, skateboards, bouffants, go-go boots, polyester suits, generation gap
 1960 Civil Rights Movement through 1965
 1961 JFK becomes president of U.S. (Jan 20)
 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba (Apr)
 1961 Berlin Wall built
 1961 Soviets launch first man in space (Apr 12)
 1962 Marilyn Monroe found dead (Aug)
 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis (Oct)
 1963 Martin Luther King "I Have a Dream" speech (Aug 28)
 1963 JFK assassinated (Nov 22), Lyndon B. Johnson becomes president
 1964 Beatles become popular in U.S.
 1964 U.S. Civil Rights Act forbids discrimination based on sex, race, religion
 1965 Los Angeles Watts Riots (Aug)
 1965 Malcolm X assassinated (Feb 21)
 1965 First U.S. troops sent to Vietnam (Mar)
 1965 Vietnam protests through 1970
 1965 St. Louis Gateway Arch completed (Oct 28)
 1965 New York City Great Blackout (Nov 9)
 1966 Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution launched (May)

1966 Hippie Movement to 1969
1967 First SuperBowl
1967 Six-Day War in Middle East (June 5-10)
1968 Martin Luther King assassinated (Apr 4)
1968 Robert F. Kennedy assassinated (June 5)
1968 First teacher allowed to teach while pregnant
1969 Richard Nixon becomes president (Jan 20)
1969 Neil Armstrong becomes first man on the moon (July 20)
1969 Woodstock concert (July 14-18)
1969 Sesame Street comes to TV

1970s Bell bottoms, hip huggers, platform shoes, leisure suits, disco, Atari, jumbo jets
1970 Kent State shootings (May 4)
1970 Jumbo jets allow transcontinental flights
1971 VCRs introduced
1972 Terrorists attack Olympic Games in Munich
1972 Watergate
1973 Last U.S. troops leave Vietnam (Mar 29)
1974 Gerald Ford becomes president (Aug 9) after Nixon resigns
1975 Vietnam War ends (Apr 30)
1976 Viking I & II land on Mars
1977 Jimmy Carter becomes president (Jan 20)
1977 Elvis Presley dies (Aug 16)
1978 Jonestown massacre
1978 John Paul II becomes Pope
1979 Three Mile Island nuclear accident (Mar)

1980s Working women, divorce, video games, CDs, power dressing, Madonna, MTV
1980 Mount St. Helens erupts (May 18)
1980 John Lennon killed (Dec 8)
1981 Ronald Reagan becomes president (Jan 20)
1981 Prince Charles weds Lady Diana (Jul 29)
1981 IBM introduces personal computers
1983 Sally Ride becomes first woman astronaut
1986 Challenger space shuttle explodes (Jan 28)
1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident (Apr 26)
1988 Pan Am flight 103 bombed over Lockerbie, Scotland
1989 George H.W. Bush becomes president (Jan 20)
1989 Berlin Wall falls
1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill (Mar 24)
1989 Tiananmen Square massacre (June 4)
1989 San Francisco earthquake (Oct 17)

1990s Internet, tattoos, body piercing, grunge, hiphop, wars shown on TV
1990 Iraq invades Kuwait (Aug 2)
1991 First Gulf War/Desert Storm begins (Jan 16) and ends (Feb 18)

1992 End of Cold War
 1992 Los Angeles riots begin after Rodney King verdict (Apr 29)
 1993 Bill Clinton becomes president (Jan 20)
 1993 Branch Davidian cult raid in Waco, TX (Feb 28-Apr 19)
 1993 World Trade Center bombed (Feb 26)
 1993 Great Flood of Mississippi, Missouri Rivers (Apr-Oct)
 1955 Disneyland opens
 1995 Oklahoma City bombing by Timothy McVeigh (Apr 19)
 1995 Dayton (OH) Peace Agreement on Bosnia-Herzegovina (Nov 21)
 1996 Prince Charles and Princess Diana divorce (July 15)
 1997 DVDs introduced
 1997 Hong Kong returned to China
 1997 Princess Diana dies in car crash (Aug 31)
 1998 President Clinton impeached (Dec 19) and acquitted few months later
 1999 Euro becomes common European currency
 1999 Columbine High School shootings (Apr 20)

2000s More war, sex and violence on TV, global warming, disasters, casual dress
 2001 George W. Bush becomes president (Jan 20)
 2001 Terrorists attack World Trade Center twin towers (Sept 11)
 2001 U.S. attacks Taliban in Afghanistan (Nov 12)
 2002 Queen Mother, Elizabeth, dies (Mar 30)
 2002 Beltway sniper attacks (Oct)
 2003 Space shuttle Columbia disintegrates during reentry (Feb 1)
 2003 Second Gulf War/Operation Iraqi Freedom begins (Mar 20)
 2003 Fall of Baghdad (Apr 7)
 2003 Deadly heat wave in Paris (Aug)
 2003 Power blackout in northeast U.S. (Aug)
 2003 Capture of Saddam Hussein (Dec 13)
 2004 Facebook launched
 2004 WWII memorial dedicated in Washington, DC (May 29)
 2004 Hurricane Charley devastates Florida (Aug 13)
 2005 YouTube launched
 2005 Pope Benedict XVI inaugurated (Apr 16)
 2005 Terrorists bomb London subway (July 7)
 2005 Hurricane Dennis hits Florida Panhandle (July 10)
 2005 Hurricane Katrina devastates Gulf Coast (Aug 28)
 2005 Atlantic power outage begins (Dec 15)
 2006 Snowstorm paralyzes northeastern U.S. (Feb 12)
 2006 Twitter created
 2006 Saddam Hussein executed (Dec 30)
 2007 Virginia Tech shooting (Apr 16)
 2007 U.S. recession officially begins (Dec)
 2008 Hurricane Ike hits Galveston, TX (Sept 13)
 2008 Global financial crisis begins
 2008 Bloody Friday stock market plunge (Oct 24)

2009 U.S. Airways flight lands in Hudson River (Jan 15)
2009 Tea Party protests begin
2009 Barack Obama becomes president (Jan 20)
2009 Indonesian tsunami disaster (Sept 30)
2010 Haiti earthquake (Jan 12)
2010 Afghanistan offense launched (Feb)
2010 BP oil spill in Gulf of Mexico (Apr 20)
2011 Arab Spring (begins Feb)
2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami (Mar 11)
2011 London riots begin (end of Mar)
2011 Mississippi River massive flooding (Apr-May)
2011 Tornadoes across southeast U.S. (Tuscaloosa), Midwest to northeast U.S. (Apr 27)
2011 Osama Bin Laden killed (May 2)
2011 Joplin, MO, tornado (May 22)
2011 Last Space Shuttle launch (Atlantis) (Jul 8)
2011 Virginia earthquake damages buildings (Aug 23)
2011 Hurricane Irene hits northeast U.S. (Aug 27)
2011 Ground Zero Memorial Plaza opens (Sept 11)
2011 Occupy Wall Street begins (Sept 17)
2011 Muammar Ghaddafi killed (Oct 27)
2011 Last U.S. troops leave Iraq (Dec 18)
2011 Kim Jong Il dies (Dec 18) Kim Jon Un takes over
2012 Syrian uprising
2012 Cold snap in Europe kills over 100 people (Feb)
2012 Aurora, CO, shooting (July 20)
2012 Hottest summer on record (plus drought) beats 1936 heat wave
2012 Hurricane Sandy hits U.S. east coast (Oct 29)
2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School mass killing (Dec 14)
2013 Pope Francis reigns after Pope Benedict XIV resigns