

# Timeline of America the Beautiful

Ray and Charlene Notgrass



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HISTORY

## How to Use This Timeline

A timeline assignment follows each lesson in *America the Beautiful Part 1* and *Part 2*. The student reads the assignment, turns to the assigned year in this book, finds the blank that has the corresponding lesson number, and writes the assigned statement on the blank. When the student writes a timeline assignment, it is helpful to read the other events that happened during that year and a few years before and after it.

Notice that each timeline box for the years 1000 to 1490 covers one decade. Beginning in 1500, each timeline box covers one year. Beginning with the year 2000, the boxes are larger so that the student can write milestones in his or her life, family events, news events, and other happenings he or she would like to remember.

We hope your student enjoys creating a personal timeline of American history!

*Timeline of America the Beautiful*  
by Ray and Charlene Notgrass

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**1750**

- English explorer Thomas Walker enters a gap that native nations use in the Appalachian Mountains and names it after the Duke of Cumberland.
- By this time, Nantucket Island has become the whaling capital of the world.

**1751**

- Pennsylvania orders a bell from England as part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Charter of Privileges. The bell will become the famous American symbol, the Liberty Bell.
- James Madison is born in Port Conway, Virginia.

**1752**

- Benjamin Franklin performs his famous experiment with electricity.

**1753**

- \_\_\_\_\_ (25)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (33)

**1754**

- George Washington leads Americans at Fort Mifflin, the first battle of the French and Indian War.
- Benjamin Franklin writes the Albany Plan of Union.
- Workers construct King's Chapel in Boston.

**1755**

- The British begin forcing the Acadians out of Canada. Many move to Louisiana.

**1756**

- Construction begins on the chapel at the San Antonio de Valero mission, later known as the Alamo.

**1757**

- Benjamin Franklin goes to Great Britain to represent the interests of the Pennsylvania colony.

**1758**

- Noah Webster is born in Connecticut.
- James Monroe is born in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

**1759**

- George Washington marries Martha Dandridge Custis.

1760	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daniel Boone enters the Blue Ridge Mountains while on a long hunt.</li> <li>• During this decade, Russian fur trappers are hunting as far south as San Francisco Bay.</li> </ul>
1761	
1762	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Henry Timberlake draws a map of Overhill Cherokee villages.</li> </ul>
1763	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The French and Indian War ends.</li> <li>• King George III issues the Royal Proclamation of 1763.</li> <li>• Spain gives up control of Florida, transferring it to the British.</li> <li>• Jews in Rhode Island build America's first synagogue.</li> </ul>
1764	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The British Parliament passes the Sugar Act and the Currency Act.</li> <li>• John Adams and Abigail Smith marry in Weymouth, Massachusetts.</li> </ul>
1765	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The British Parliament passes the Stamp Act.</li> </ul>
1766	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The British Parliament repeals the Stamp Act and passes the Townshend Acts.</li> </ul>
1767	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Quincy Adams is born in Braintree, Massachusetts.</li> <li>• Andrew Jackson is born in the Waxhaws area near the border of North Carolina and South Carolina.</li> </ul>
1768	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colonists settle in the Watauga Valley of Tennessee.</li> <li>• The British send eight warships to Boston. They camp on Boston Common.</li> <li>• John Witherspoon becomes president of the College of New Jersey (later Princeton).</li> </ul>
1769	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Junipero Serra begins the San Diego de Alcalá mission in Alta California.</li> <li>• Daniel Boone sees Kentucky for the first time.</li> <li>• _____</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">(130)</p>

1770

- Crispus Attucks is the first American to die in the Boston Massacre.



Boston, 1776  
by Franz Xaver Habermann

1771

1772

1773

- The British Parliament passes the Tea Act.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (24)
- Enslaved woman Phillis Wheatley publishes a book of poetry.
- William Henry Harrison is born in Charles City County, Virginia.

1774

- Parliament passes the Coercive Acts (called Intolerable Acts by colonists).
- The First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia.
- By this year, Timothy Demonbreun had established a fur trading operation at French Lick in Middle Tennessee.

1775

- The Second Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (26)
- The American Revolution begins with the Battles of Lexington and Concord.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (34)

1776

- Thomas Paine publishes *Common Sense*.
- The Continental Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence.
- The Spanish build a mission and a military post at present-day San Francisco.
- Sequoyah is born in Tennessee.

1777

- \_\_\_\_\_ (27)
- Americans defeat the British at Saratoga — the turning point of the Revolution.
- The Continental Congress adopts the Articles of Confederation.
- American troops begin a hard winter at Valley Forge.

1778

- France officially recognizes the United States of America.
- British Captain James Cook becomes the first European to visit Hawai'i.
- Admiral John Paul Jones fights the British along the coast of England.
- Polish engineer Tadeusz Kościuszko helps build fortifications at West Point.

1779

- George Rogers Clark defeats the British at Fort Sackville in Indiana.
- General "Mad Anthony" Wayne defeats the British at Fort Stony Point.
- Light Horse Harry Lee leads a surprise attack on British forces in New Jersey.
- Admiral John Paul Jones captures the HMS *Serapis*, a British man-of-war.

1780	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The British capture Charleston, South Carolina.</li> <li>• Benedict Arnold becomes a traitor.</li> <li>• Overmountain Men help win the Battle of King's Mountain in South Carolina.</li> <li>• French troops under Jean-Baptiste Rochambeau land in Newport, Rhode Island.</li> </ul>
1781	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Battles occur in North and South Carolina.</li> <li>• British General Cornwallis surrenders to General George Washington at Yorktown.</li> </ul>
1782	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay negotiate the Treaty of Paris.</li> <li>• _____ (35)</li> <li>• Martin Van Buren is born in Kinderhook, New York.</li> </ul>
1783	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noah Webster publishes <i>The Blue-Backed Speller</i>.</li> <li>• Timothy Demombreun becomes lieutenant governor of the Northwest Territory.</li> </ul>
1784	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Confederation Congress ratifies the Treaty of Paris.</li> <li>• Zachary Taylor is born near Barboursville, Virginia.</li> </ul>
1785	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Jay is a founding member of the New York Manumission Society.</li> <li>• John James Audubon is born in Haiti.</li> </ul>
1786	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quakers begin helping runaway slaves.</li> </ul>
1787	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Confederation Congress passes the Northwest Ordinance of 1787.</li> <li>• The Constitutional Convention writes a new United States Constitution.</li> <li>• Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey become the first three states.</li> <li>• Hamilton, Madison, and Jay begin writing <i>The Federalist Papers</i>.</li> </ul>
1788	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, and New York become the 4th through 11th states.</li> <li>• The U.S. Constitution goes into effect when New Hampshire becomes the 9th state to ratify it.</li> </ul>
1789	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• George Washington is inaugurated as the 1st president of the United States.</li> <li>• John Jay becomes the first chief justice of the United States Supreme Court.</li> <li>• The first United States Congress convenes.</li> <li>• North Carolina becomes the 12th state.</li> </ul>

1790

- Philadelphia becomes the capital of the United States.
- Rhode Island becomes the 13th state.
- Federal City in the District of Columbia becomes the permanent U.S. capital.
- John Tyler is born in Charles City County, Virginia.

1791

- \_\_\_\_\_ (63)
- Vermont becomes the 14th state.
- James Buchanan is born in Cove Gap (near Mercersburg), Pennsylvania.
- Samuel F. B. Morse is born in Massachusetts.

1792

- Kentucky becomes the 15th state.
- Congress creates the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia.

1793

- \_\_\_\_\_ (31)

1794

- Eli Whitney receives a patent for his cotton gin.



Cumberland River, Tennessee

1795

- James K. Polk is born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

1796

- Tennessee becomes the 16th state.

1797

- John Adams is inaugurated as the 2nd president of the United States.
- The United States Navy launches the USS *Constitution*.
- Spain cedes Mississippi to the United States.

1798

- \_\_\_\_\_

1799

- George Washington dies at Mount Vernon.

1800

- Millard Fillmore is born in Summerhill, New York.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (32)

1801

- Thomas Jefferson is inaugurated as the 3rd president of the United States.
- Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations agree to improvements on the Natchez Trace.
- Thousands gather for a camp meeting at Cane Ridge, Kentucky.

1802

- \_\_\_\_\_ (70)

1803

- The United States purchases the Louisiana Territory from France.
- Ohio becomes the 17th state.

1804

- Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery begin their expedition.
- Franklin Pierce is born in Hillsborough, New Hampshire.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (36)
- Osage leaders visit President Jefferson in Washington, D.C.

1805

- The Corps of Discovery crosses the Continental Divide of the Rocky Mountains.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (37)

1806

- \_\_\_\_\_ (39)
- Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery return from their expedition.
- Noah Webster publishes a dictionary.

1807

- \_\_\_\_\_ (52)
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow is born in Maine.
- Congress passes the Embargo Act of 1807.

1808

- Andrew Johnson is born in Raleigh, North Carolina.
- Importing enslaved people from outside the United States becomes illegal.

1809

- Abraham Lincoln is born in Hardin (now LaRue) County, Kentucky.
- James Madison is inaugurated as the 4th president of the United States.
- Sequoyah becomes interested in writing.



1870

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (29)

1871

- Orville Wright is born in Dayton, Ohio.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (75)
- The Great Chicago Fire begins on October 8.

1872

- \_\_\_\_\_ (73)
- Congress passes a law that pardons thousands of former Confederates.
- Calvin Coolidge is born on July 4 in Plymouth Notch, Vermont.

1873

- \_\_\_\_\_ (74)
- Levi Strauss makes the first pair of jeans.

1874

- \_\_\_\_\_ (82)
- Herbert Hoover is born in West Branch, Iowa.
- Soldiers find gold in the Black Hills.

1875



1876

- Colorado becomes the 38th state.
- Lakota Sioux, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho warriors fight soldiers of the 7th Regiment of the U.S. Cavalry in the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

1877

- \_\_\_\_\_ (56)
- Rutherford B. Hayes is inaugurated as the 19th president of the United States.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (79)

1878



1879

- African Americans begin an exodus from the South to the West.

Settlers in Nicodemus, Kansas

1880

- John Philip Sousa becomes leader of the U.S. Marine Band.

1881

- James Garfield is inaugurated as the 20th president of the United States.
- James Garfield is assassinated.
- Chester A. Arthur is sworn in as the 21st president of the United States.

1882

- Franklin D. Roosevelt is born in Hyde Park, New York.

1883

- \_\_\_\_\_ (76)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (77)

1884

- Harry S. Truman is born in Lamar, Missouri.
- John Roy Lynch speaks at the National Republican Convention.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (108)
- Workers complete construction of the Washington Monument.

1885

- Grover Cleveland is inaugurated as the 22nd president of the United States.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (69)

1886

- \_\_\_\_\_ (81)
- Cleveland becomes the only president to be married in the White House.

1887

- Alvin York is born in Tennessee.

*Washington Monument*



1888

- Two American cowboys discover the Cliff Palace of Mesa Verde in Colorado.
- Sarah Polk turns on the electric lights of Cincinnati, Ohio.
- The Washington Monument opens with a steam elevator.

1889

- Benjamin Harrison is inaugurated as the 23rd president of the United States.
- North Dakota and South Dakota become the 39th and 40th states.
- Montana becomes the 41st state.
- Washington becomes the 42nd state.

**1890**

- Idaho becomes the 43rd state.
- Wyoming becomes the 44th state.
- Dwight D. Eisenhower is born in Denison, Texas.
- Many of the Minneconjou band of the Lakota die at the Battle of Wounded Knee.

**1891**

- The Populist party forms.
- Thomas Edison and his staff invent the motion picture camera.
- Carnegie Hall opens in New York City.

**1892**

- Ellis Island opens as an immigrant station.

**1893**

- Grover Cleveland is inaugurated as the 24th president of the United States.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (84)
- Sears, Roebuck and Co. sends out the first Sears, Roebuck and Co. catalog.

**1894**

- Norman Rockwell is born in New York City.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (78)

**1895**

- \_\_\_\_\_ (150)

**1896**

- \_\_\_\_\_ (83)
- Utah becomes the 45th state.

**1897**

- Marian Anderson is born in Philadelphia.
- William McKinley is inaugurated as the 25th president of the United States.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (68)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (120)

**1898**

- \_\_\_\_\_ (4)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (85)

**1899**

- The Bronx Zoo opens in New York City.

1900

- \_\_\_\_\_ (109)
- Around the turn of the century, jazz music develops in New Orleans.

1901

- President William McKinley is assassinated.
- Theodore Roosevelt is sworn in as the 26th president of the United States.
- Booker T. Washington becomes the first African American to be invited to dine at the White House.

1902

- Congress establishes Crater Lake National Park.
- Susie King Taylor publishes reminiscences of her life during the Civil War.
- J. C. Penney opens the Golden Rule Store in Kemmerer, Wyoming.



*Subway ticket office,  
New York City, c. 1904*

1903

- \_\_\_\_\_ (88)

1904

- St. Louis hosts the Louisiana Purchase Exposition.
- The New York City subway system opens.
- New York holds its first New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square.

1905

1906

- San Francisco experiences a devastating earthquake.
- Congress establishes Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado.
- President Theodore Roosevelt visits the Panama Canal construction site, becoming the first president to travel outside the U.S. while in office.

1907

- Ellis Island processes 1.25 million immigrants.
- Construction begins on the National Cathedral.
- Oklahoma becomes the 46th state.

1908

- \_\_\_\_\_ (38)
- Lyndon B. Johnson is born in Johnson City, Texas.
- Henry Ford introduces the Model T automobile.

1909

- William Howard Taft is inaugurated as the 27th president of the United States.
- Work begins on the Cape Cod Canal.
- The Indianapolis Motor Speedway opens.

1930

- Birds Eye sells its first frozen foods.
- The Mickey Mouse comic strip debuts.
- The Independence Producers become the first minor league team to play a night game.



American flag, c. 1931

1931

- The "Star-Spangled Banner" becomes the national anthem.
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (110)

1932

- \_\_\_\_\_ (20)
- Amelia Earhart is the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.
- Thomas Dorsey, called the Father of Gospel Music, writes "Take My Hand, Precious Lord."

1933

- Franklin Roosevelt is inaugurated as the 32nd president of the United States.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (102)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (89)

1934

- The wind blows 231 miles per hour on Mount Washington in New Hampshire.
- The federal government begins to survey the Natchez Trace Parkway.
- The National Park Service establishes Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

1935

- \_\_\_\_\_ (101)
- Parker Brothers begins to sell the Monopoly game.
- U.S. approves establishment of the Commonwealth of the Philippines.

1936

- Antonin Scalia is born in Trenton, New Jersey.

1937

- \_\_\_\_\_ (103)
- The movie *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* premieres.
- Glenn Miller organizes his first touring band.

1938

- \_\_\_\_\_ (105)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (94)

1939

- Twelve-year-old Donn Fendler is lost and rescued on Mount Katahdin.
- Franklin Roosevelt lays the cornerstone of the Jefferson Memorial.
- World War II begins in Europe.
- Bill Monroe forms a band called the Blue Grass Boys.

1940

- The United States begins drafting soldiers.
- Franklin Roosevelt is elected to an unprecedented third term as president.



1941

- Congress establishes Mammoth Cave National Park.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (106)
- \_\_\_\_\_

1942

- Allied forces gain victories in North Africa.
- Special corps for women are established in the U.S. Army and Navy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (107)
- Joseph "Joe" Biden Jr. is born in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

1943

- President Franklin Roosevelt dedicates the Jefferson Memorial.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (119)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (144)

1944

- Allies gain victories against Japan in the Pacific.
- Allies land in northern France on D-Day.
- The U.S. Forest Service begins using Smokey Bear to help prevent forest fires.
- Franklin Roosevelt is elected to a fourth term as president.

1945

- President Franklin Roosevelt dies in Warm Springs, Georgia.
- Harry S. Truman is sworn in as the 33rd president of the United States.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (111)
- The United States becomes a charter member of the United Nations.

1946

- Nat King Cole records "Get Your Kicks on Route 66."
- Donald J. Trump is born in New York City, New York.
- George W. Bush is born in New Haven, Connecticut.
- William J. "Bill" Clinton is born in Hope, Arkansas.

1947

- \_\_\_\_\_ (115)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (122)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (137)

1948

- America begins the Marshall Plan to help Europe recover from World War II.
- The Berlin Airlift begins.
- Harry Truman surprises the nation by winning a bid for reelection.
- The Scrabble board game goes on sale.

1949

- Billy Graham holds an 8-week evangelistic crusade in Los Angeles.
- President Truman speaks at the ceremony to lay the cornerstone of the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

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