

Year	Event	Additional information from individual research
1492	Christopher Columbus encountered America.	As an Italian he started colonising the New World for the Spanish crown and spreading Catholicism. He landed in the Bahamas instead of finding the sea route to the Orient. Altogether he undertook four voyages to the Americas.
around 1600	European colonialists arrived.	Colonialists were looking for better lives or were on a mission, e.g. to spread religious values as the justification for westward expansion.
1775–(1783)	The War of Independence from Great Britain was fought.	A treaty was signed, granting the 13 former British colonies independence.
4 July 1776	The Declaration of Independence (Thomas Jefferson) was announced. It is a national holiday today and created the values of the 'American Dream'.	
1787	The American Constitution was worked out; a system of checks and balances was established.	
1791	The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution; basic human rights were guaranteed.	The first 10 amendments to the American Constitution is called Bill of Rights; as of 2014 it comprised of 27 amendments.
1829–1837		Andrew Jackson was the seventh president of the US, known for driving the Native Americans off their lands and strengthening the power of the federal government (Jacksonian Democracy).
since 1830		The Indian Removal Act enforced by Andrew Jackson sent almost 50,000 Native American Indians from the South on a Trail of Tears to live on reservations; this way land for white settlers/ expansion was provided.

1845–1852	Waves of Irish immigrants came to the US to escape famine. Immigrants from the Northern and Northwestern Europe immigrated too, many on account of political unrest.	Ireland was a British colony at that time, and many farmers were obliged to grow potatoes for export to Britain. The Irish lived on potatoes too. When the potato bug destroyed the harvest, Irish farmers had to meet British requirements for potatoes, and many of them starved to death.
1848		The California gold rush began and attracted thousands of people; California became a federal state (31st) in 1850.
1861–1865	The American Civil War, in which the North fought the South, ended with the abolition of slavery and maintaining the Union.	Abraham Lincoln, 16th president, was assassinated after he had saved the Union.
Year	Event	Additional information from individual research
1864	Yosemite was established as a national park, the first of its kind, under President Lincoln.	
1872		Yellowstone National Park was established on 1 March 1872.
1893		Revival of <i>Manifest Destiny</i> and the <i>Frontier Thesis</i> by historian Frederick Jackson Turner.
around 1900	Waves of immigrants came from Southern and Eastern Europe.	
since 1902		There was a gold rush in Alaska after Felix Pedro discovered gold north of Fairbanks; Alaska became an organised US territory in 1912 and, finally, the 49th federal state in 1959.

1920	American women received the right to vote.	The Seneca Falls Declaration of 1848 paved the way for general suffrage for women.
1931	James Truslow Adams coined the term 'the American Dream' in his book <i>The Epic of America</i> .	Americans united in their fight to overcome the impact of Great Depression.
1950s–1960s	The Civil Rights Movement took place.	Martin Luther King delivered his "I have a dream" speech in Washington on 28 August 1963.
after 1965	Immigration laws were changed; more non-European immigrants were granted permission to immigrate to the US.	
since 1970	The percentage of Europeans decreased among the foreign population (1970: 60 %). The idea of a 'salad bowl' replaced the one of a 'melting pot'.	This demographic process was called 'the browning of America'. It occurred partly on account of the influx of Hispanics to the US and intermarriage between people of different races.
2000	Due to increasing immigration from Latin America and Asia, as well as the increasing difficulty in determining/reporting ethnicity, Europeans account for only 15% of the US population.	For the first time in US history African Americans were no longer the largest ethnic minority. At 12.5% of the population Hispanics comprised the largest minority.