

History of the USA



Indigenous peoples from Asia cross the Bering Strait probably following wild animals, or as a consequence of glaciation: they're the Native Americans.

1

20,000 BC

The Dutch buy the island of *man-ha-tin* from the Natives and found the city of New Amsterdam. The city comes under English control and in 1664 is renamed New York.

4



1624



The *Boston Tea Party*. To protest against British taxes on sugar, paper and tea, a group of colonists board a British vessel and pour its tea cargo into Boston Bay. It is the beginning of the American War of Independence.

5

1773-1778

The Gold Rush. When gold is discovered in California, pioneers from all over Europe move westwards on wagon trains, invading the Indian lands. The first transcontinental railway is built, and San Francisco becomes one of the main US cities.

7



1869

1492 AD

1620

1861-1865

1876-1890

Escaping from religious persecution, the *Pilgrim Fathers* land on the East Coast aboard The Mayflower. *British colonization* increases on a large scale.

3

Christopher Columbus discovers America. Believing he has reached the Indies, he calls the people he meets 'Indians'.

2



The American Civil War between North and South is the consequence of slavery. When Abraham Lincoln becomes President the Southern States leave the Union and form the *Confederacy of States*. When they are defeated, slavery is abolished but President Lincoln is assassinated shortly after.

6



8

The Little Big Horn Battle and the Wounded Knee Massacre are two milestones in the loss of independence of Native American Tribes. American Indians are moved to *Federal Reservations*. The USA becomes an industrial power and now consists of 48 states.

New York City

Read about New York on page 90.

Los Angeles

Read about Los Angeles on page 92.

The USA enters **World War I**, supporting the **Allies** and playing a key role in the final victory.

9

When the Japanese Navy bombs Pearl Harbour (Hawaii), the USA enter **World War II**, again siding with the **Allies**. American involvement in the war is crucial to beat Nazi Germany.

11

The JFK years: America elects J.F. Kennedy as its 35th President. He is assassinated in Dallas, Texas in 1963.

The Cold War: tensions increase between the USA and USSR. There is a real danger of a nuclear war.

Martin Luther King, leader of the **black non-violent movement** for equality, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

13



On July 20th **Neil Armstrong** is the first man to set foot on the Moon.

15



On September 11th the **Twin Towers** in New York City collapse following a terrorist attack. It's the first time America faces a foreign assault on its own territory.

17

1917-1918

1941

1960s

1969

2001

1929-1933

1945

1964-1975

1987

2009



10

The Great Depression and the **Wall Street Market Crash**. Many US banks close and people cannot get their savings back. President Roosevelt leads the USA out of this crisis with his economic programme called **The New Deal**.

To put an end to World War II on the Pacific front, the USA drop the first atomic bomb on **Hiroshima** and **Nagasaki**. Japan surrenders.

12



14

The Vietnam War. The USA is involved in a long and terrible war in the Far East, while large anti-war demonstrations take place before the Pentagon.

US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikail Gorbachev officially sign the end of the **Cold War**.

16



18

Barack Obama is elected the first Afro-American president in US history.