



PRESIDENTS' DAY

Freedom's Feast PRESIDENTS' DAY

On-line Ceremonies to get the most out of your AMERICAN holiday Celebrations.

★ PRESIDENT'S DAY HISTORIC TIMELINE ★ FOR THE CREATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

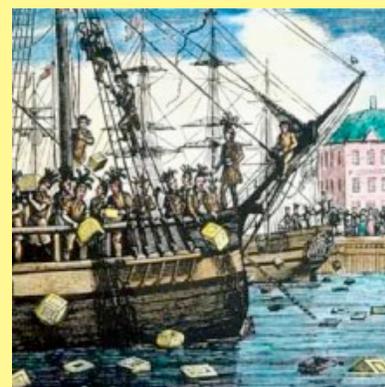
- 1764 Sugar Act: this is one of the first instances where American colonists vocally object to British mandates. The British levy a tax on foreign sugar, ban the importation of French rum and wines, and increase the taxes on several other goods.
- 1765 Stamp Act: the British impose a law stating that nearly all publications and published materials (newspapers, legal documents, pamphlets) must bear a specific stamp. Of course, this stamp costs money. The colonists see this as another British injustice. Previously, they were allowed to publish documents without needing to pay for a stamp, why should they be forced to pay now?
- 1767 Townshend Acts: a series of taxes imposed on lead, paper, tea, glass and paints. These acts cause violent American protests. The British send more soldiers and troops to govern the unruly colonists.
- 1770 Boston Massacre: British troops shoot five American colonists. The details of this story are hotly debated, even today. However, this incident highlights growing American resentment and mistrust towards an increased British military presence.
- 1773 Tea Act: American Colonists are only allowed to buy tea from the East India Company. The Colonists see this as a major injustice. Why should the British tell them that they are only allowed to buy tea from one company?
- 1773 Boston Tea Party: as an act of rebellion, a handful of American colonists disguise themselves as Native Americans, ransack and dump three ships worth of East India tea into the Boston harbor before it can be sold. This is a costly loss for the East India Company and directly challenges the authority of King George. It sparks a boycott of tea throughout the colonies.
- 1774 The First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia. 56 delegates from 12 colonies attend and meet in secret. They don't want the British to know that that they are united and working cooperatively. They discuss British injustices and their rights to liberty, self-governance and freedom.
- 1775 The Revolutionary War begins.
- 1776 The Continental Congress passed the Declaration of Independence, which listed their grievances against the British Crown, on July 2 and was published on July 4.



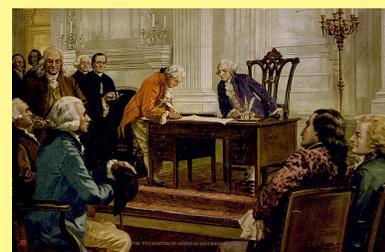
Colonists protest the Parliament's passage of the Stamp Act.
Photo: Stamp Act



British soldiers open fire on a crowd of colonists gathered in State House square.
Photo: USHistory.org

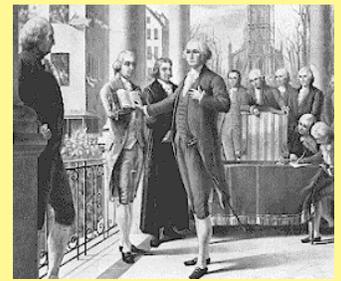


Colonists dump East India Tea into the Boston Harbor in protest of the Tea Act.
Photo: Freedom Outpost



Delegates sign the U.S. Constitution.
Photo: Library of Congress

- 1777 Continental Congress adopts the Articles of Confederation, which governs the 13 colonies for ten years.
- 1783 The Revolutionary War ends.
- 1787 The Constitutional Convention meets in Philadelphia to address some of the problems of the weak central government that existed under the Articles of Confederation. In September, U.S. Constitution is signed.
- 1788 U.S. Constitution becomes the law of the land after New Hampshire ratifies it.
- 1789 George Washington is unanimously elected President.
- 1789 James Madison completes the Bill of Rights, a list of ten basic human rights guaranteed to all Americans by the Constitution. Notable rights include the freedoms of speech, press, religion and assembly, the right to a fair, public and speedy trial, and the prohibition of cruel and unusual punishments.
- 1791 Bill of Rights is ratified.
- 1861 Abraham Lincoln is elected President.
- 1865 The 13th Amendment abolishes slavery.
- 1920 The 19th Amendment grants women the right to vote.
- 1951 The 22nd Amendment limits the length of a presidency to either 10 years or two terms.
- 1971 The 26th Amendment establishes 18 as the legal voting age. The rationale is simple: if 18 year olds are old enough to serve, fight and potentially die for this country, then they also old enough to vote for their leaders and elected officials.



George Washington takes the oath of office as the Nation's first president.

Photo: [National Archives](#)



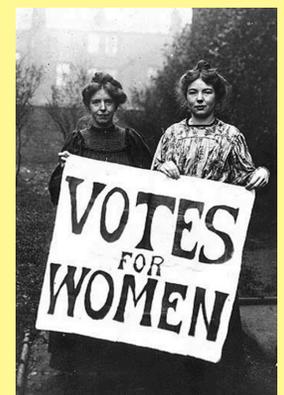
A campaign poster for Abraham Lincoln's presidential campaign.

Photo: [Lincoln 200](#)



A depiction of the vote in the House of Representatives that abolished slavery.

Photo: [Internet Archive](#)



Supporters of Women Suffrage.

Photo: [PBS Works](#)