

Timeline



1616



1763



1805



1812

1492 Christopher Columbus lands in the Caribbean. Believing he had reached the West Indies, he calls the people that inhabit the area "Indians." Columbus is responsible for the enslavement and oppression of native people and sparks an age of European conquest that brings disease and unrest to the "New World."

c. 1595 Pocahontas, daughter of Chief Powhatan, chief of a network of tribes in modern-day Virginia, is born.

1607 Pocahontas' brother kidnaps Captain John Smith of the Jamestown colony. Smith writes that after being nearly executed by Chief Powhatan, Pocahontas saves him. Though the story is romanticized in history books and Disney movies, historians debate the accuracy of Smith's account.

1613 Captain Samuel Argall takes Pocahontas as a prisoner in the first Anglo-Powhatan war. She is taught English, converted to Christianity and given the name "Rebecca." She marries tobacco planter John Rolfe a year later at age 17.

1616 Rolfe brings Pocahontas to London, where she is presented as a "civilized savage" in the effort of encouraging more investment in the Jamestown settlement. A year later, she dies in England of unknown causes at the age of 20 or 21.

1620 The Pilgrims first arrive in Plymouth. Many of the Native people in that area have been killed by a smallpox epidemic. Squanto, a member of the nearly-wiped out Wampanoag tribe, does help the settlers, but there is no recorded evidence any Natives were at the first Thanksgiving.

1680 Pueblo Native Americans in New Mexico revolt against Spanish.

1754 The French and Indian War begins as British settlers dispute with French

settlers over territory. Each side is supported by military units from their respective countries and Native American allies.

1756 The Seven Years' War between the British and French begins. Native Americans ally with the French.

1763 Ottawa Chief Pontiac leads Native American forces into the battle against the British in Detroit. The British attack the Ottawa warriors July 31 in the Battle of Bloody Run. The Native Americans fend the British off, but there are deaths on both sides.

1785 The Treaty of Hopewell is signed, in theory protecting Cherokee Nation Citizens under the jurisdiction of the young United States and sectioning off their land.

1791 The Treaty of Holston makes Cherokees give up their land outside of the borders already set for them.

1794 The U.S. wins the Battle of Timbers, usurping more Northwestern territory.

1800 Sacagawea, a Lemhi Shoshone girl, is kidnapped by the Hidatsa tribe. At 13, she is sold into a nonconsensual marriage with a French Canadian trapper, Toussaint Charbonneau.

1804 Sacagawea is six months pregnant when she meets Meriwether Lewis and William Clark as they explore territory in Louisiana. She becomes a valuable translator and mediator for the men.

1805 Sacagawea, carrying her newborn, accompanies Lewis and Clark on their expedition, helping them survive, navigate and speak to tribes in the area.

1812 The War of 1812 begins, with the U.S. fighting against the British, French and Native Americans over territory expansion.

- 1814** U.S. forces under Andrew Jackson attack Creek Indians who were against the expansion of American territory in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. The Creeks lose more than 20 million acres of land.
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- 1830** Jackson signs the Indian Removal Act, which evicts Native American tribes east of the Mississippi River and forces them to move to plots of land in the west. This removal policy later becomes known as the Trail of Tears because of the deaths that occurred during the forced migration.
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- 1836** The last citizens of the Creek tribe are forced from their land into Oklahoma. Of the 15,000 who leave, 3,500 die before making it to Oklahoma.
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- 1838** President Martin Van Buren enlists troops to hold Cherokees at gunpoint and march them off of their land. More than 5,000 Cherokee citizens die during the painful journey.
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- 1851** Congress passes the Indian Appropriations Act, which creates the Indian reservation system. It does not allow Native Americans to leave their reservations without permission.
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- 1864** Colorado volunteer forces massacre Cheyenne and Arapaho encampments, killing and mutilating more than 150 people. The event becomes known as the Sand Creek Massacre.
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- 1874** After a discovery of gold in South Dakota's Black Hills, U.S. troops ignore a treaty and invade the Native American territory.
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- 1876** The Battle of Little Bighorn — also known as Custer's Last Stand — takes place. Sioux and Cheyenne warriors, led by Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, defeat Lt. Col. George Custer and his troops, which increases tensions between white Americans and Native Americans.
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- 1879** Carlisle Indian Industrial School opens in Pennsylvania. It forces Native American children to assimilate into white U.S. culture.
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- 1887** The Dawes Act gives the president authority to divide up land allotted to Native Americans in reservations.

- 1890** About 150 Native Americans are killed by U.S. forces during the Wounded Knee Massacre.
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- 1907** Charles Curtis, who is part Native American, becomes the first Native American U.S. Senator.
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- 1924** The Indian Citizenship Act grants citizenship to Native Americans born within U.S. borders. Before this act, Native American citizenship was limited.
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- 1929** Curtis becomes the first Native American vice president under President Herbert Hoover.
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- 1934** The Indian New Deal is introduced as an attempt to help Native Americans rediscover and revitalize their cultural heritage and traditions. Central to this deal is the Indian Reorganization Act, which sought to promote tribal self-governance. Though many tribes accepted it, many rejected it out of fear of more federal intervention.
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- 1941** About 25,000 Native Americans serve in World War II and 40,000 others work in wartime industries.
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- 1945** Thanks largely to the advocacy of Alaska Native Elizabeth Peratrovich of the Tlingit Nation, the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945 is passed, which prohibits discrimination based on race in Alaska.
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- 1968** President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Indian Civil Rights Act, which grants Native American tribes rights included in the Bill of Rights.
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- 1970** President Richard Nixon gives his "Special Message on Indian Affairs" speech to denounce federal policies that oppressed Native Americans and advocated for their self-determination.
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- 1972** More than 500 Native American activists travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to establish ways to address treaty violations. Guards of the BIA building attempt to turn the activists away, but they begin a weeklong siege of the building. The BIA agrees to review the demands and transport the activists back home. The FBI declares these activists extremists.

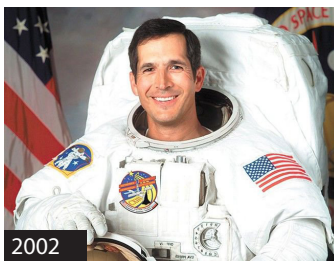




1988



2000



2002



2016

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1972 The Indian Education Act establishes funding for bilingual and bicultural education programs.

1975 Leaders from over 20 tribes create the Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT) to help indigenous communities secure better terms from corporations seeking to exploit resources on reservations.

1978 The Indian Child Welfare Act addresses the practice of transferring care and custody of Native American children to non-Natives. It recognizes the right of tribal courts to address issues of adoption and guardianship.

1980 In the *United States v. Sioux Nation of Indians*, the Supreme Court rules Sioux Indians are to be offered a total of about \$106 million for the taking of their land of the Black Hills in violation of the Treaty of Fort Laramie. The Sioux do not take the money and to this day, it sits in a trust fund collecting interest.

1981 The Lakota Times is first published. To this day, it is the only official legal South Dakota Native American newspaper on tribal land.

1988 The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) allows tribes to conduct gaming on their land, but makes it subject to tribal and state negotiations for certain types. The first Two Spirit Gathering, hosted by Minneapolis Native Americans takes place, honoring LGBTQ Native Americans celebrated as Two Spirits because they have both masculine and feminine traits. Richard LaFortune, a Native American LGBTQ activist, organizes this meeting.

1990 The Native American Languages Act makes it a U.S. policy to preserve and protect Native languages. The Indian Arts and Crafts Act (IACA) of 1990 promotes Native American artwork and small businesses. President George H.W. Bush designates November 1990 as National American Indian Heritage Month. The term Two Spirit becomes the appropriate label to encompass the spectrum of sexual and gender identities within Native American communities.

1992 The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation open the Foxwoods Resort Casino in Connecticut, the largest resort casino in the U.S.

The first Indigenous People's Day is celebrated in opposition to Columbus Day.

1994 The American Indian Religious Freedom Act has amendments added that allow American Indians to legally use the psychoactive plant peyote in religious ceremonies.

1996 President Bill Clinton authorizes a White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities to support and develop tribal colleges.

1999 Shannon County, South Dakota, home of Oglala Lakota Nat., is identified as the poorest in the country.

2000 The U.S. Mint issues a dollar coin depicting Sacagawea.

2002 John Bennett Herrington, a Chickasaw member, becomes the first Native American in space.

2008 The Coquille Indian Tribe in Oregon becomes the first to openly adopt marriage equality policies.

2009 The federal government meets a \$3.4 billion settlement with American Indians who say they were owed royalties.

2011 New York State begins to collect sales tax on tobacco products sold on American Indian reservations.

2012 Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act allows tribal governments to approve leasing of tribal lands.

2016 Native Americans from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North Dakota protest the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, which is set to run through their sacred tribal land. In 2017, their motion in court is denied, but they are still fighting to try to halt construction.