Christopher Columbus lands in the New World.

Patrick Henry proclaims at the Virginia Convention, “Give me liberty or give me death.”

Benjamin Franklin begins publishing Poor Richard’s Almanack.

Thomas Jefferson writes the Declaration of Independence.


Samuel Adams is born in Boston, Massachusetts. This American Patriot organized the Boston Tea Party in 1773.

Paul Revere rides to Lexington, Massachusetts, to deliver the news that the British are coming.

John Hancock, as president of the Second Continental Congress, is the first to sign the Declaration of Independence.
George Washington is elected the first president of the United States.

John Hancock, as president of the Second Continental Congress, is the first to sign the Declaration of Independence.

President Thomas Jefferson sends the Corps of Discovery, led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, to explore and survey the Louisiana Territory, and they reach the Pacific Ocean in 1805.

The second president of the United States, John Adams, and his wife, Abigail, move to Washington, D.C., the nation's new capital.

James and Dolley Madison marry; the fourth president of the United States was nicknamed the Father of the Constitution while his wife, a respected hostess, earned the nickname Queen Dolley.

During the winter, Sacagawea joins the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Davy Crockett is elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; he is reelected in 1829 and 1833.
Take a Trip Through Time with the David A. Adler Picture Book Biographies

- Louis Braille invents raphigraphy, a raised dot alphabet, to help blind people communicate.
- Frederick Douglass publishes his own anti-slavery newspaper called The North Star.
- Florence Nightingale begins her life's work, which resulted in nursing an important, respected profession.
- Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of Uncle Tom's Cabin, meets President Abraham Lincoln.
- Sojourner Truth travels across northern states preaching against slavery and for women's rights.
- From 1850–1860, Harriet Tubman, as a “conductor” on the Underground Railroad, makes nineteen trips to the South, leading a total of about 300 slaves to freedom.
- 1492
- 1839
- 1843
- 1847
- 1850
- 1854
- 1862
- 1954
- 1987
- 2000
- 2010
Florence Nightingale begins her life's work, which resulted in making nursing an important, respected profession.

Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, meets President Abraham Lincoln.

President Abraham Lincoln delivers his Gettysburg Address.

Robert E. Lee surrenders his forces to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

Illusionist Harry Houdini makes a 10,000-pound elephant and her trainer vanish.

Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly alone across the Atlantic Ocean by air.

Thomas Alva Edison, inventor of the lightbulb, dies at the age of eighty-four.
Jesse Owens wins four gold medals in track at the Olympic games in Berlin, Germany.

Anne Frank receives a book of blank pages for her thirteenth birthday and makes it into her diary.

Eleanor Roosevelt serves as First Lady of the United States from 1932–1945.

George Washington Carver is awarded the Theodore Roosevelt Medal for Distinguished Research in Agricultural Chemistry.

Jackie Robinson, a player for the Brooklyn Dodgers, is the first African American to play baseball in the major leagues and is named National League Rookie of the Year.

President Dwight David Eisenhower sends federal troops to Little Rock, Arkansas, to enforce school integration.

Thurgood Marshall wins Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. This case led to the end of school segregation.
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John F. Kennedy is elected the thirty-fifth president of the United States, the youngest man ever to hold that office.

Helen Keller receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. leads the March on Washington, D.C., and gives his “I Have a Dream” speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

Cesar Chavez, who formed the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) in 1962, begins a twenty-five-day fast to ensure his grape protest remains nonviolent.

Rosa Parks, integral to the Montgomery bus boycott (1955–1956), is awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

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