

Key People in American History

- Abigail Adams (1744–1818)** Wife of President John Adams; “Remember the Ladies”
- Samuel Adams (1722–1803)** Revolutionary leader—Sons of Liberty; antifederalist
- Jane Addams (1860–1935)** Cofounder of Hull House; 1931 Nobel Peace Prize
- Susan B. Anthony (1820–1906)** Women’s rights leader—National Woman Suffrage Association
- Neil Armstrong (1930–)** American astronaut—first person to land on the moon, 1969
- Bernard M. Baruch (1870–1965)** Head of the War Industries Board during World War I
- Alexander Graham Bell (1847–1922)** Invented the telephone, 1876
- Omar Bradley (1893–1981)** U.S. general during World War II—Africa, Sicily, Normandy
- John Brown (1800–1859)** Extreme abolitionist; led Pottawotamie Massacre, raid on Harper’s Ferry
- William Jennings Bryan (1860–1925)** “Cross of Gold Speech”; opposed evolution at Scopes trial
- John C. Calhoun (1782–1850)** Vice-President, Senator (S.C.); nullification theory
- Stokely Carmichael (1942–)** SNCC leader; coined term Black Power, 1966
- Andrew Carnegie (1835–1919)** Carnegie Steel; “robber baron”; philanthropist
- Rachel Carson (1907–1964)** Marine biologist; author of *Silent Spring*, 1962
- Fidel Castro (1926–)** Communist leader of Cuba; led 1959 revolution
- César Chávez (1927–1993)** Formed United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, 1962
- Shirley Chisholm (1924–)** First black woman elected to Congress, 1968
- Winston Churchill (1874–1965)** Inspirational British leader, World War II; Iron Curtain speech
- William Clark (1770–1838)** Coleader of expedition to explore the Louisiana Purchase
- Christopher Columbus (1451–1506)** First European to land in the Americas
- Hernando Cortés (1485–1547)** Spanish explorer who conquered Mexico
- Clarence Darrow (1857–1938)** Defended John Scopes for teaching evolution, 1925
- Jefferson Davis (1808–1889)** President of the Confederate States of America
- Eugene V. Debs (1855–1926)** Five-time presidential candidate—Socialist Party of America
- Stephen A. Douglas (1813–1861)** Illinois Senator; debated Lincoln; popular sovereignty
- W. E. B. Du Bois (1868–1963)** Founder of the NAACP, 1909; *The Souls of Black Folk*, 1903
- Thomas Edison (1847–1931)** Invented incandescent electric light bulb, 1880; phonograph, 1878
- “Duke” Ellington (1899–1974)** Composer; band leader; pianist of the Harlem Renaissance
- Archduke Franz Ferdinand (1863–1914)** Serbian leader; his assassination triggered World War I
- Geraldine Ferraro (1935–)** First woman vice-presidential candidate (Dem.), 1984
- Henry Ford (1863–1947)** Assembly line, standardized parts; affordable automobiles, 1920s
- Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790)** Enlightenment thinker; Revolutionary leader; printer
- Betty Friedan (1921–)** *The Feminine Mystique*, 1963; National Organization for Women, 1966
- Bill Gates (1955–)** Founder of Microsoft Corporation; MS-DOS, Windows operating systems
- King George III (1738–1820)** British monarch during the American Revolution
- Newt Gingrich (1943–)** Conservative Republican congressman (Ga.); Contract with America, 1994
- Samuel Gompers (1850–1924)** Formed American Federation of Labor, 1886
- Allen Greenspan (1926–)** Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board since 1987
- Alexander Hamilton (1755–1804)** Author of the *Federalist Papers*; first secretary of the treasury
- Adolf Hitler (1889–1945)** Dictator who headed Germany’s Nazi Party, 1933–1945
- Ho Chi Minh (1890–1969)** Communist ruler of North Vietnam, 1954–1969
- Hiram Johnson (1866–1945)** Progressive governor of California, 1911–1917
- James Weldon Johnson (1871–1938)** Executive secretary of the NAACP in the 1920s
- “Mother” Jones (1830–1930)** Leader of women’s labor movement, 1867–1930
- Florence Kelley (1859–1932)** Progressive-era reformer; campaigned for child-labor law
- Nikita Khrushchev (1894–1971)** Communist leader of USSR, 1957–1964
- Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929–1968)** Civil rights leader; 1964 Nobel Peace Prize
- Henry Kissinger (1923–)** National security adviser to President Nixon
- Marquis de Lafayette (1757–1834)** French soldier who aided American revolutionaries
- Robert La Follette (1855–1925)** Progressive-era reform governor of Wisconsin; targeted railroads
- Robert E. Lee (1807–1870)** Leading Confederate general, Army of Northern Virginia
- John Llewellyn Lewis (1880–1969)** Leader of United Mine Workers of America, 1919 strike
- Meriwether Lewis (1774–1809)** Coleader of expedition to explore the Louisiana Purchase
- Charles A. Lindbergh (1902–1974)** First transatlantic solo flight, 1927
- Henry Cabot Lodge, Sr. (1850–1924)** Conservative Senator (Mass.); opposed League of Nations
- Douglas MacArthur (1880–1964)** U.S. general during World War II and the Korean War

Key People in American History *continued*

- Alfred Thayer Mahan (1840–1914)** The Influence of Sea Power upon History, 1890
- Malcom X (1925–1965)** American Black Muslim leader, 1952–1964; black separatist
- Wilma Mankiller (1945–)** First woman elected to head a major Indian tribe (Cherokee), 1987
- George Marshall (1880–1959)** Secretary of state; Marshall Plan aids Europe after World War II
- Thurgood Marshall (1908–1993)** NAACP attorney in Brown; first African-American Supreme Court justice, 1967
- José Martí (1853–1895)** Leader for Cuban independence from Spain
- Joseph A. McCarthy (1908–1957)** Republican senator from Wisconsin; anti-Communist activist, 1950s
- Metacom (1639?–1676)** Wampanoag Chief also known as King Philip; warred with Puritans
- Samuel F. B. Morse (1791–1872)** Invented the telegraph, Morse code, 1837
- Lucretia Mott (1793–1880)** Abolitionist; women’s rights leader—Seneca Falls Convention
- Benito Mussolini (1883–1945)** Italian Fascist dictator, 1922–1943
- Thomas Nast (1840–1902)** Political cartoonist against Boss Tweed/Tammany Hall, 1869–1871
- Chester Nimitz (1885–1966)** Victorious U.S. admiral at battle of Midway, June 1942
- Sandra Day O’Connor (1930–)** First woman Supreme Court justice, 1981
- Thomas Paine (1737–1809)** Common Sense (1776); influenced American and French Revolutions
- Rosa Parks (1913–)** Refusal to move to rear of bus leads to Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott, 1955
- George Patton (1885–1945)** U.S. general, World War II—Africa, Normandy, Battle of Bulge
- H. Ross Perot (1930–)** Texas billionaire, 3rd-party presidential candidate, 1992, 1996
- John J. Pershing (1860–1948)** Military leader Indian Wars to World War I
- Powhatan (c. 1547–1618?)** Chief whose tribe befriended, warred with Jamestown settlers
- Hiram Revels (1827–1901)** First African American in U.S. Senate, during Reconstruction
- Eddie Rickenbacker (1890–1973)** American fighter-pilot hero of World War I
- John D. Rockefeller (1839–1937)** Standard Oil Company; “robber baron”; philanthropist
- Eleanor Roosevelt (1884–1962)** Wife of President Franklin D.; advocate for social causes
- Sacajawea (c. 1786–c. 1812)** Shoshone woman, guide for Lewis and Clark expedition
- Sacco & Vanzetti**—Italian immigrants, anarchists, executed during the Red Scare, 1927
- Jonas Salk (1914–1995)** Developed an effective polio vaccine in the 1950s
- Santa Anna (1795–1876)** President of Mexico and military leader in Mexican-American War
- H. Norman Schwarzkopf (1934–)** American commander in chief—Persian Gulf War
- Roger Sherman (1721–1793)** Constitutional Convention—proposed Great Compromise
- Upton Sinclair (1878–1968)** Muckracker; The Jungle, 1906, publicized abuses in meat-packing industry
- Sitting Bull (1831–1890)** Sioux leader; defeated Custer at Little Bighorn; killed at Wounded Knee
- Bessie Smith (1894?–1937)** Outstanding female blues singer of the Harlem Renaissance
- Joseph Stalin (1879–1953)** Communist Russian dictator, 1924–1953
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815–1902)** Women’s rights leader—Seneca Falls Convention
- Gloria Steinem (1934–)** Founder National Woman’s Political Caucus and Ms. magazine, 1970s
- Thaddeus Stevens (1792–1868)** Radical Republican leader of Congressional Reconstruction
- Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811–1896)** Wrote Uncle Tom’s Cabin, 1852
- Hideki Tojo (1884–1948)** Japanese dictator, October 1941–August 1945
- George Wallace (1919–)** Alabama governor; 1968 presidential candidate; opposed to integration
- Earl Warren (1891–1974)** Liberal chief justice of Supreme Court, 1953–1969
- Daniel Webster (1782–1852)** Senator from Massachusetts; noted orator; against nullification
- Ida B. Wells, (1862–1931)** African-American journalist; antilynching crusade, 1890s; NAACP