

## **Major historical Events for Native Americans:**

1. 900AD The Norse colonization and first contact with indigenous people
2. 1492 **Columbus arrives**
3. 1513 Ponce DeLeon captured 4 warriors in Florida
4. 1519 Cortes Invades Mexico
5. 1524 Italian explorers kidnapped an Indian child to bring to France
6. 1539 DeSoto executed 100 Timucuan warriors in a massacre
7. 1540 Coronado invaded Mexico with 300 Conquistadors
8. 1540 DeSoto burned 200 pueblo men at the stake
9. 1598 Possession of the Hopi land (Arizona) for the Spanish crown.
10. 1600 Europeans believed that the diseases they brought over to the new land were proof of Gods wrath on the heathen. 90% died and lay rotting on the ground due to lack of burial.
11. 1607 Jamestown founded in Virginia and Captain John Smith is saved by Pocahontas.
12. 1616 A smallpox epidemic decimates the Native American population in New England.
13. 1621 One of the first treaties between colonists and Native Americans is signed as the Plymouth Pilgrims enact a peace pact with the Wampanoag Tribe, with the aid of Squanto, an English speaking Native American.
14. 1689 **The French and Indian War**, a conflict between France and Britain for possession of North America.
15. 1752 In the 1752 census, 147 “Indian” slaves — 87 females and 60 males — were listed as living in French households in what would later be called Illinois.
16. 1756 Governor Robert Morris declared war on the Delaware and Shawnee Indians. Included in his war declaration was “The Scalp Act,” which put a bounty on the scalps of Indian men, women and boys.

17. 1758 **The first Indian reservation** in North America was established by the New Jersey Colonial Assembly.
  18. 1760 Cherokee Uprising – A breakdown in relations between the British and the Cherokee leads to a general uprising in present-day Tennessee, Virginia and the Carolinas.
  19. 1762 a number of Indians in New Mexico were tried for witchcraft and were conveniently condemned into servitude.
  20. 1776 The Continental Congress resolved that it was “highly expedient to engage Indians in service of the United Colonies,” and authorized recruiting 2,000 paid auxiliaries. The program was a dismal failure, as virtually every tribe refused to fight for the colonists.
  21. 1780 Eighty percent of the Arikara died of smallpox, measles, etc.
  22. 1781 Smallpox wiped out more than half the Piegan Blackfoot.
  23. 1790 The first U.S. Census count included slaves and free African-Americans, but Indians were not included.
  24. 1792 George Washington, in his fourth annual address to Congress, expressed dissatisfaction that “Indian hostilities” had not stopped in the young country’s frontier, north of the Ohio River.
  25. 1802 Federal law prohibits the sale of liquor to Indians.
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26. 1804 The Sioux meet the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Trading posts begin to be established in the west. On March 26, the U.S. government gave first official notice to Indians to move west of the Mississippi River.
27. 1812 Tecumseh declared that he and the confederacy would never recognize any treaties signed with the US government.
28. 1814 The Creek War was instigated by General **Andrew Jackson** who sought to end Creek resistance to ceding their land to the US government. The Creek Nation was defeated and at the Treaty of Fort Jackson, the Creek lost 14 million acres, or two-thirds of their tribal lands. To count the Creek dead, whites cut off

their noses, piling 557 of them. They also skinned their bodies to tan as souvenirs. This was the single largest cession of territory ever made in the southeast.

29. 1820 By this year, more than 20,000 Indians lived in virtual slavery in the California missions.

30. 1830 On April 7, President Andrew Jackson submitted a bill to Congress calling for the removal of tribes in the east to lands west of the Mississippi. On May 28th, the **Indian Removal Act** was passed, and from 1830 to 1840 thousands of Native Americans were forcibly removed. On September 15, the Choctaw sign a treaty exchanging 8 million acres of land east of the Mississippi for land in Oklahoma. On December 22, the State of Georgia made it unlawful for Cherokee to meet in council, unless it is for the purpose of giving land to whites.

31. 1832 Two U.S. Supreme Court cases change the nature of tribal sovereignty by ruling that Indian tribes were not foreign nations, but rather were “domestic dependent nations.” As such, both cases provided the basis for the federal protection of Indian tribes, or the federal trust relationship or responsibility.

32. 1834 Congress created Indian Territory in the west that included the land area in all of present-day Kansas, most of Oklahoma, and parts of what later became Nebraska, Colorado, and Wyoming. The area steadily decreased in size until the 1870s when Indian Territory had been reduced to what is now Oklahoma, excluding the panhandle.

33. 1836 In five groups, over 14,000 Creek Indians were forcibly removed by the US Army from Alabama to Oklahoma. Two thirds of the 6,000 Blackfoot died of smallpox.

34. 1838 **TRAIL OF TEARS** \_ President Jackson sent federal troops to forcibly remove almost 16,000 Cherokee who had refused to move westward under the unrecognized Treaty of New Echota. 5,500 died in the 800 mile trip to Oklahoma.

35. 1850 There are 20,000,000 buffalo on the plains between Montana and Texas. Extermination of buffalo herds by sports and hide hunters severely limits

Plains Indians food supply and ability to survive and reduces buffalo to only 500,000.

36. 1864 Kit Carson forces 800 Navajo to walk 300 miles toward Arizona.

37. 1861 **Cochise led Apache.**

38. 1866 **Crazy Horse led Lakota** and later at Little Big Horn.

39. 1890 Sitting Bull led Dakota. **Wounded Knee 300 massacred in S Dakota**

40. 1864 The US Cavalry attacked a Cheyenne and Arapaho village. The soldiers scalped the victims, then sliced off women's breasts, cut out their vaginas, cut the testicles from the men, cut off fingers, raped dead women in relays, and used baby toddlers as target practice. 163 Indians were killed; 110 of them were women and children. The dead were left to be eaten by coyotes and vultures.

41. 1867 **Treaty of Medicine Lodge** – After Congress passed a law to confine the Plains tribes to small reservations where they could be supervised and “civilized,” US representatives organized the largest treaty-making gathering in US history. Over 6,000 members from the Arapaho, Cheyenne, Apache, Comanche, and Kiowa met at Medicine Lodge in Kansas. The Grand Council of tribes was attended by Crazy Horse, Red Cloud, and Sitting Bull, among other great leaders, and pledged to end further encroachment by the whites. The treaty ensured that all tribes would move onto reservation lands. Thereafter, the army was instructed to punish Indian raids and to “bring in” any tribes that refused to live on reservations.

42. 1868 Nez Perce Treaty – This was the last Indian treaty ratified by the US government. This treaty guaranteed the Sioux Indians' rights to the Black Hills of Dakota and gave the Sioux hunting permission beyond reservation boundaries. The treaty also creates the Great Sioux Reservation and agrees that the Sioux do not cede their hunting grounds in Montana and Wyoming territories. The Army agrees to abandon the forts on the Bozeman Trail and the Indians agree to become “civilized.”

George Armstrong Custer established himself as a great Indian fighter by leading the Massacre on the Washita in Indian Territory (Oklahoma) in which Black Kettle is killed. The entire village was destroyed and all of its inhabitants were killed.

43. 1876 **The Battle of the Little Bighorn** – Ignoring warnings of a Sioux army of 2,000-4,000 men, Custer and 250 soldiers attack the forces of Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse at the Little Bighorn. George Armstrong Custer and 210 men under his command are killed.
44. 1877 The U.S. Government seized the Black Hills from Lakota Sioux in violation of a treaty.
45. 1880 Civilization Regulations – Congress set up a series of offenses that only Indians could commit. These regulations outlawed Indian religions, the practices of “so-called” medicine men, ceremonies like the Sun Dance, and leaving the reservation without permission. These regulations were in place until 1936.
46. 1883 On November 3, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that an Indian is by birth “an alien and a dependent.”
47. 1886 **Geronimo**, described by one follower as “the most intelligent and resourceful, most vigorous and farsighted” of the Apache leaders, surrendered to General Nelson A. Miles in Skeleton Canyon, Arizona, after more than a decade of guerilla warfare against American and Mexican settlers in the Southwest.
48. 1889 In the first **“Oklahoma Land Rush,”** the U.S. government bows to pressure and opens for settlement land that it had previously promised would be a permanent refuge for Native Americans moved from their eastern territories. Native American tribes are paid about \$4 million for the parcel of land. The starting gun sounds at noon, and an estimated 50,000 settlers race across the land; by sunset, all 1.92 million acres have been claimed.
49. 1893 More than 100,000 white settlers rushed into Oklahoma’s Cherokee Outlet to claim six million acres of former Cherokee land.
50. 1907 **State of Oklahoma** – Congress established the State of Oklahoma by merging Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory. The former Indian Territory was opened to additional non-Indian settlement.