

HISTORY: Key Events that changed the USA

Date	4 th July 1776	30 th April 1789	31 st January 1865	1955 - 1956	20 th July 1969	28 th August 1963	1964	20 th January 2009
Event	The Declaration of Independence	George Washington becomes the first president of the USA	Thirteenth amendment was passed – slavery was abolished	Montgomery Bus Boycott	Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon	Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech	Civil Rights Act was passed	Barack Obama became the 44 th president of the USA

Key Vocabulary

Term	Definition
significant event	A very important thing that happens or takes place.
president (noun)	The head of state and government (of the USA)
the Declaration of Independence (noun)	A written statement which stated that the USA was free from being ruled by Great Britain.
slavery (noun)	Keeping people as slaves.
slaves (noun)	A person who is owned another person and is forced to do whatever their owner asks.
plantation (noun)	A large area of land where (only) crops are grown and harvested.
Thirteenth Amendment (noun)	The law which banned slavery
abolish (verb) abolishment (noun)	Getting rid of a system or practice (e.g. slavery)
racial segregation	Dividing a race from the rest of society.
civil rights	The right for everyone to be treated equally and fairly.



Key facts

The United States of America (USA) is in North America and has 50 states.

How has the USA changed since the Declaration of Independence?

How have the beliefs and attitudes of Americans changed over time?

How did the efforts of civil rights activists (Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King) change America?

Why was the election of Barak Obama in 2009 a significant event?
Barak Obama was the first African-American President. Only 150 years previously, many African-American's were kept as slaves and even after slavery was abolished, African-Americans did not have the same rights that those of other races did.

“History is a version of past events that people have decided to agree upon.” – Napoleon Bonaparte

Key Figures

Rosa Parks



Martin Luther King



Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin



Barack Obama

