

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1951	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Twenty-second Amendment to the Constitution is ratified; it states no person may be elected President more than twice. 2. Truman relieves MacArthur of his Far Eastern commands. General Matthew Ridgway replaces him as commander of UN forces in Korea. At joint session of Congress, MacArthur urges military action against Communist China. Ridgway sends North Korea a proposal to negotiate a cease-fire agreement. UN adopts US resolution calling for no more arms shipments to Communist China and North Korea. 3. Selective Service Bill lowers draft age to 18 ½ and lengthens military service to two years. 4. Supreme Court upholds the Smith Act, under which eleven Communists in the US were convicted. 5. Mutual Security Agency is set up to offer US economic, military, and technical aid to other countries. 6. US-Japanese treaty allows the US to maintain military bases in Japan. 7. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are found guilty and sentenced to death for conspiring to transmit classified military documents to the Soviets. They are executed in 1953. 8. President Truman declares the state of war with Germany is officially ended. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. A video camera is developed that records both pictures and sound on magnetic tape. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. J. D. Salinger publishes <i>Catcher In the Rye</i>. 11. Rachel Carson publishes <i>The Sea Around Us</i>, which in effect launches the ecological movement. 12. First transcontinental television broadcast is President Truman's address at Japanese Peace Conference in San Francisco. 13. First commercial color telecast presented by the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS), New York City.
1952	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Truman seizes steel mills to prevent strike by 600,000 CIO steelworkers. Supreme Court rules seizure is unconstitutional because Truman does not have approval from Congress. Steelworkers go on strike, which is settled by negotiations. 2. Congress passes the McCarran-Walter Act (Immigration and Nationality Act) over Truman's veto. It abolishes race as a barrier to immigration but retains the national origins quota system. 3. President Truman announces he will not run for a second term. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. The US successfully tests a hydrogen bomb designed by Teller. It is the world's first thermonuclear weapon. 11. Cobalt-60 is used for radiation treatments of cancer. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Ralph Ellison publishes <i>the Invisible Man</i>, the story of a young black searching for his place in society. 13. Hemingway publishes <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i>. 14. Hollywood develops three-dimensional movies. Natural Vision (3-D) films must be viewed through special eye glasses; after brief success the novelty wears off.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Democratic Party drafts Adlai Stevenson of Illinois for President with Senator John Sparkman of Alabama as nominee for Vice President. 5. Progressive and American Labor, Socialist Workers, Socialist, Prohibition, and America First parties nominate presidential candidates. 6. Truman signs “G. I. Bill of Rights” for veterans of the Korean War. Korean veterans receive benefits similar to those given to World War 2 veterans. 7. Dwight Eisenhower and Richard M. Nixon of California are elected President and Vice President on the Republican ticket. Eisenhower is the first Republican president since Hoover’s election in 1928. Republicans gain control of Congress. 8. President-elect Eisenhower, fulfilling his campaign promise, makes three-day inspection of UN forces in Korea. 9. Puerto Rico adopts its own constitution and becomes a commonwealth. 		

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1953	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US blockade of Formosa is lifted, permitting attacks by Nationalists on China's mainland. 2. New Cabinet-level Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is created, with Ms Oveta Culp Hobby of Texas as Secretary. 3. US Communist Party is ordered to register with Department of Justice as an organization controlled and directed by the USSR> 4. Eisenhower announces the US will not interfere physically in the affairs of countries behind the Iron Curtain. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles states US moral opposition to Soviet subjugation of eastern European nations. 5. Refugee Relief Act allows more than 200,000 victims of Communist persecution to be admitted to the US in the next three years. 6. US gives Spain \$226 million in aid in return for military bases in that country. 7. Congress proposes giving individual Indians the same civil status as US citizens, thus ending all limitations on Indian tribes. 8. Federal jury in New York City convicts 13 Communists of conspiring to teach the overthrow of the US government. 9. US gives France financial aid to help her fight the Viet Minh rebels in Vietnam. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Major Charles "Chuck" Yeager reaches air speed record of more than 1600 mph in a Bell Aircraft X-1A rocket-powered plane. 11. First atomic artillery shell is fired at the proving grounds in Nevada. 12. Transistorized hearing aids are introduced. 13. A means is developed of transmitting color TV signals that can be received by both color and black-and-white sets. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. James Baldwin publishes the autobiographical work, <i>Go Tell It On the Mountain</i>. 15. Arthur Miller publishes <i>The Crucible</i>. 16. Hugh Hefner founds the men's magazine, <i>Playboy</i>.

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1954	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Senate censures Senator Joseph McCarthy for contempt of a Senate subcommittee, misconduct, and abuse of certain Senators, and insults to the Senate during his investigations of alleged Communism in the government and the US Army. “McCarthyism” comes to mean political accusations using sensational tactics and unsupported evidence. 2. Senate approves US-South Korean Mutual Defense Treaty. 3. Four Puerto Rican nationalists, shouting for Puerto Rican independence, fire shots in the House of Representatives, wounding five Congressmen. 4. Secretary of State Dulles shifts US foreign policy from one of Soviet containment (Truman Doctrine) to one of massive retaliation by the US if it is attacked by the Soviets. 5. US-Japanese Mutual Defense Treaty permits the gradual rearming of Japan. 6. US signs pact with Nationalist China (now Taiwan). 7. Communist Control Act deprives US Communists of rights enjoyed by ordinary citizens. 8. US and Canada announce construction of Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line of radar stations across northern North America. It begins operation in 1957. 9. US authorized construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway in cooperation with Canada. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. The <i>Nautilus</i>, the world’s first nuclear-powered submarine, is launched. 11. Jonas Salk, physician, develops injectable Salk vaccine for polio. After school children in Pittsburgh are vaccinated, a nationwide program begins. 12. American Cancer Society reports higher death rates among cigarette smokers. Tobacco industry cites 36 specialists who deny that lung cancer is caused by cigarette smoking. 13. Atomic Energy Act allows development of peaceful atomic energy projects by private companies, which are also allowed to own nuclear materials. 14. Plastic contact lenses are developed. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. The increasing popularity of television entertainment causes radio programmers to adopt a largely musical format. 16. US Supreme Court, in <i>Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas</i> rules that segregation in public schools violates Fourteenth Amendment. Lower courts ordered to use “all deliberate speed” in admitting Black children to public schools.

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1955	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US begins economic aid to South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. 2. Congress authorizes the President to use force, if necessary, to protect Nationalist China against Communist attack. 3. Federal employees who are “security risks” continue to be dismissed, an ongoing policy since 1953. 4. American Federation of Labor (AFL) and the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) merge. George Meany is elected President of the AFL-CIO and is reelected until he retires in 1979. 5. House extends Selective Service to 1959. US military reserves are to be raised from 800,000 to 2,900,000 by 1960. 6. Blacks boycott segregated city bus lines in Montgomery, Alabama. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., boycott leader, gains national prominence for advocating passive resistance to segregation in public places. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) encourages and supports anti-segregation movement throughout the country. 7. Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) forbids racial segregation on interstate buses and trains. 8. All federal defense programs are to be run by the Civil Defense Coordinating Board. 9. Supreme Court orders public school desegregation to begin at once. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Albert Sabin develops an effective oral polio vaccine. 11. GE Research Laboratory produces industrial-quality synthetic diamonds. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Tennessee Williams publishes <i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i>. 13. Marian Anderson, contralto, becomes the first black to sing at the Metropolitan Opera. 14. Jim Henson creates Kermit the Frog, the first of the Muppets. 15. Rock and roll music is attacked as “immoral” and contributing to juvenile delinquency. 16. US Air Force Academy opens. Estimate is that US has 4000 atomic bombs stockpiled, Soviet Union 1000, enough to kill everyone on earth several times over.

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1956	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Southern Congressmen call on states to resist “by all lawful means” the Supreme Court ruling against segregation in the public schools. Virginia challenges the ruling, amending its laws to permit public funds for private schools. Federal court in Louisiana nullifies state’s laws opposing ruling. 2. Agricultural (Soil Bank) Act pays farmers to take crop land out of production in order to reduce crop surpluses. 3. Federal Aid Highway Act authorizes a 13-year intra- and interstate highway building program to be funded by tolls paid by motorists. 4. Democratic Party nominates Stevenson for President and Senator Estes Kefauver as Vice President. 5. States’ Rights, Prohibition, Socialist Labor, and Socialist parties nominate presidential candidates. 6. Eisenhower and Nixon are re-elected President and Vice President on the Republican ticket, winning by a landslide. Eisenhower is the first Republican to win re-election since McKinley in 1900. Democrats win control of Congress. 7. Defense Department sets up emergency operation to transport 15,000 Hungarian refugees to the US in response to the brutal USSR suppression of Hungarian revolution. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Elvis Presley achieves national fame with the song “Heartbreak Hotel.” For the next 16 months, Elvis has at least one song on the Top Ten. 9. Movies and movie stars are allowed to appear on TV for the first time. 10. The Broadway musical <i>My Fair Lady</i>, starring Julie Andrews and Rex Harrison, premiers. 11. Alan Ginsburg publishes <i>Howl</i>, a poetic work which discusses the basic tenets of the “Beat movement.” 12. Dizzy Gillespie and his band are sent by the US State Department on a goodwill tour—the first jazz musicians to be subsidized by the government. 13. Approximately 6 million cars and 1 million trucks come off assembly lines. About 1 out of 8 cars is a station wagon.

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1957	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eisenhower proposes plan (Eisenhower Doctrine) to supply Middle Eastern countries with economic and military aid in order to help them fight Communist aggression. 2. Governor Orval Faubus of Arkansas calls out state National Guard to prevent integration at Central High School, Little Rock. President Eisenhower sends federal troops to enforce court-ordered de-segregation. Nine black students enter school guarded by troops. 3. US occupation forces leave Japan. 4. FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover accuses US Communist Party of adopting a new, more liberal constitution in order to gain acceptance in the US. 5. US proposes a 10-month halt to nuclear testing as first step toward disarmament. 6. Senate subcommittee holds hearing on US preparedness to withstand Soviet military attack. 7. Congress enacts Civil Rights Act, the first civil rights legislation since Reconstruction (1866-1877). It prohibits discrimination in public places based on race, color, religion, or national origin. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. America's first large nuclear power plant opens in Shippingport, Pa. 9. Federation of American Scientists urges a worldwide ban on nuclear weapon tests. 10. Penicillin is synthesized. 11. America is embarrassed when USSR launches first successful satellite, <i>Sputnik</i>. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Jack Kerouac publishes his best-known work, <i>On the Road</i>. 13. Jerome Robbins directs <i>West Side Story</i> on Broadway. 14. Dr. Seuss, pen name of children's writer Theodor Seuss Geisel, publishes <i>The Cat in the Hat</i> and <i>The Grinch that Stole Christmas</i>. 15. Office of Education publishes two-year survey of education in Soviet Union showing that emphasis on scientific and technical education in USSR is far ahead of that in US.

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1958	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supreme Court orders states not to delay public school desegregation, citing the situation in Little Rock in 1957. Governor Faubus of Arkansas defies Supreme Court ruling by closing four high schools and reopening them as private schools. 2. Under Eisenhower Doctrine, US Marines are sent to Lebanon to restore order after uprising by Arab nationalists. 3. Defense Reorganization Act centralizes defense structure to US can respond more quickly to a nuclear attack by the USSR. 4. Eisenhower signs anti-recession bill to stimulate housing construction. 5. Presidential pension law provides income for the first time to former Presidents. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Xerox produces its first commercial copying machine. 7. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is established. 8. Stereo LPs are introduced. 9. Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) is established to ensure air safety. 10. <i>Nautilus</i> makes the first underwater crossing of the North Pole. 11. Explorer 1 is America's first satellite. Results sent back from this unmanned vehicle lead to the discovery of the Van Allen belts by Explorer's designer, James Van Allen. 12. Project Mercury is organized to put a man in orbit. 13. Project Score, an unmanned probe, transmits a prerecorded message from President Eisenhower—the first voice received from outer space. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Nobel laureate Linus Pauling presents the UN with a petition signed by 11,021 scientists demanding an end to nuclear weapons testing. He claims that present radiation will cause 5 million birth defects or cases of cancer in the next 300 generations. 15. National Defense Education Act is signed; authorizes low-interest, long-term tuition loans to college and graduate students. 16. Pan-American World Airways begins transatlantic jet service. Regular commercial jet flights begin in the US. This year, for first time, airlines carry more transatlantic passengers than ships do. 17. US churches report large increases in membership since 1950.

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1959	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alaska becomes 49th state. 2. Hawaii becomes 50th state. 3. Virginia Supreme Court rules that state's laws against school integration are unconstitutional. Desegregation of schools in Norfolk and Arlington begins. 4. Supreme Court upholds injunction under the Raft-Harley Act ending 116-day steel strike in Pittsburgh. 5. Vice President Nixon engages in famous "kitchen debate" with Soviet Premier Khrushchev in Moscow. 6. Supreme Court rules that a person can be tried for the same offense in both state and federal courts. 7. Federal court rules unconstitutional the Arkansas law under which Governor Faubus shut the Little Rock public schools. 8. Soviet Premier Khrushchev visits the US and holds talks with Eisenhower. 9. Eisenhower makes 3-week trip to 11 countries in Europe, Asia, and Africa. 10. St. Lawrence Seaway is opened. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. <i>Savannah</i>, the world's first nuclear-powered commercial cargo ship, is launched. 12. <i>U. S. S. George Washington</i> is commissioned; first nuclear submarine able to carry and launch missiles. 13. NASA selects seven astronauts. 14. Two monkeys, Abel and Baker, return safely from a space flight that reaches an altitude of 300 miles. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Rogers and Hammerstein's musical <i>The Sound of Music</i> opens on Broadway. 16. Lorraine Hansberry publishes <i>Raisin in the Sun</i> which becomes the first drama by a black woman to be produced on Broadway. 17. National Football League (NFL) is formed. 18. St. Lawrence Seaway opens. It is world's largest inland waterway; ships travel 135 miles from Montreal to Lake Ontario and through other Great Lakes, 2,300 miles inland from Atlantic Ocean.

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1960	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blacks stage sit-ins in South to force desegregation of lunch counters and other public places. 2. U-2 photographic reconnaissance plan piloted by Francis Gary Powers is shot down over Soviet territory. Premier Khrushchev denounces US spying missions. Powers is imprisoned by the Soviets and released in 1962 in exchange for convicted Soviet spy Rudolf Abel. President Eisenhower suspends U-2 flights. 3. Fidel Castro, who has toppled the government of Cuba in 1959, confiscates US property in Cuba. US places an embargo on exports to Cuba. 4. Eisenhower makes goodwill tours in Far East and Latin America. 5. Social Security coverage is extended to the needy aged. 6. Eisenhower's foreign policies are denounced by Soviet Premier Khrushchev at UN General Assembly. 7. Republican presidential nominee Nixon and Democratic nominee Kennedy engage in four televised debates. 8. Soviets shoot down US RB-47 reconnaissance bomber, charging continual US spying missions. 9. John Fitzgerald Kennedy of Massachusetts and Lyndon Baines Johnson of Texas are elected President and Vice President on the Democratic ticket. Kennedy receives 303 electoral votes; Nixon receives 219, and Senator Harry F. Byrd of Virginia 15 from the "Dixiecrats." Kennedy becomes, at 43, the youngest man ever elected President and the first Roman Catholic President. 10. US warns North Vietnam and Communist China not to intervene militarily in Laos. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Theodore Maiman develops the first LASER. 12. Birth control pills are made available to the public. 13. X-15, an experimental rocket-powered airplane, is flown at 2196 mph. 14. <i>Triton</i>, a nuclear submarine, travels around the world under water. 15. First successful underwater launching of Polaris missiles; they are fired from submerged atomic submarine at targets more than 1100 miles away. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Harper Lee publishes the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, <i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i>. 17. Chubby Checker causes an international dance craze with his recording of "The Twist." 18. Alfred Hitchcock releases the suspense thriller <i>Psycho</i>. 19. Scott O'Dell publishes <i>Island of the Blue Dolphin</i>. 20. Population is 179.3 million. Shifts in population cause a change in number of seats in House of Representatives for 25 states; trend is mainly westward, with California gaining 8 seats. 21. Automobile industry begins shift to compact cars to meet falling sales and imports of foreign economy and sports models.

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1961	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US breaks diplomatic relations with Cuba, calling it a “Soviet satellite.” About 1500 Cuban exiles trained by the US make unsuccessful attempt to invade Cuba and overthrow Castro (“Bay of Pigs”). Failure is blamed on the CIA and lack of air support. 2. President Kennedy establishes the Peace Corps to give trained manpower and technical assistance to underdeveloped countries. 3. Kennedy proposes the Alliance for Progress to give US aid toward relief of Latin American economic and social problems. 4. Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) sponsors the “Freedom Riders,” inter-racial groups that seek to end segregation on interstate bus routes in the South. Demonstrations are made against <i>de facto</i> segregation in the North. 5. Black Muslims (black nationalist and religious group) under Malcolm X advocate black power and separation of the races. 6. Twenty-third Amendment to the Constitution allows residents of the District of Columbia to vote in presidential elections. 7. Senate voices concern about growing influence of the John Birch Society, a right-Owing-secret society dedicated to fighting Communism. 8. Kennedy and Khrushchev hold talks on Berlin, Laos, and disarmament. He asks Congress for defense funds to counter growing Soviet threat in Europe. 9. President Kennedy accepts full responsibility for unsuccessful Cuban invasion. 10. Kennedy proposes \$1.8 billion, 10-year space exploration program. 11. Dean Rusk becomes Secretary of State, and Robert McNamara becomes Secretary of Defense. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Alan Shepard is America’s first man in space. He reaches an altitude of 115 miles in a 15 minute flight aboard Freedom 7, a Mercury Mission capsule. 13. Kennedy states the US goal in its space program: “landing an American on the Moon in this decade.” 14. Virgil “Gus” Grissom is America’s second man in space as he makes a 16-minute flight aboard the Mercury Mission’s Liberty Bell 7. 15. First intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) fired; travels 4200 miles. 	

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1962	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US troops on training mission in Vietnam are ordered to fire if fired upon by enemy troops. New US military command, known as Military Assistance Command (MAC) is set up in South Vietnam. US Army officers are killed by Communist guerrillas near Saigon. 2. Cuban Missile Crisis: US reconnaissance planes discover the existence of Soviet missile and bomber bases in Cuba. Kennedy demands removal of installations and orders a blockade of Cuba. Khrushchev agrees to dismantle bases and remove missiles. US lifts blockade. 3. Congress passes constitutional amendment (24th) forbidding the use of a poll tax or other tax as a requirement for voting in federal elections. 4. US and Soviets remove military tanks from the Berlin Wall. 5. Kennedy forbids racial discrimination in federally built housing. 6. Supreme Court rules that public schools cannot require the recitation of prayers since it violates the First Amendment. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. John Glenn becomes the first American to orbit the Earth. His 3 orbits aboard Friendship 7 cover 81,000 miles in less than 5 hours. 8. M. Scott Carpenter completes 3 orbits aboard Aurora 7. 9. Ranger 4 lunar probe strikes the Moon. 10. Telstar 1, the first privately financed satellite, relays TV programs from the US to Europe. 11. Walter Schirra lands within 5 miles of his target after completing 6 orbits–160,000 miles–aboard Sigma 7. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Andy Warhol, leading painter of the pop art movement, paints “Green Coca-Cola Bottles” and “Marilyn Monroe.” 13. Rachel Carson publishes <i>Silent Spring</i>, a book about the effects of chemical pesticides that sparks interest in controlling environmental pollution. 14. Johnny Carson begins as host of <i>The Tonight Show</i>, a talk show which introduces much new talent. 15. Joseph Heller publishes <i>Catch-22</i>, about the misadventures of an officer during World War 2.

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1963	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kennedy proposes major medical-hospital plan for the aged to be funded through Social Security. 2. Supreme Court rules states must provide free legal counsel for all defendants in criminal cases. 3. Civil rights demonstrations occur throughout the country. Medgar W. Evers, Field Secretary for the NAACP is shot and killed in Jackson, Miss. Riots break out in protest. Dr. King leads massive March on Washington in support of equal rights for blacks and delivers his famous speech, "I have a dream. . ." 4. US and USSR agree to set up a "hot line," a direct telephone link between Washington and Moscow, to prevent the start of nuclear war by accident. 5. US aid to South Vietnam continues. US recognizes the South Vietnamese provisional government following the overthrow of Ngo Dinh Diem's government. 6. President Kennedy is assassinated (November 22) in Dallas while riding in a motorcade with Governor John Connally of Texas, who is severely wounded. Vice President Johnson is sworn in as President. Lee Harvey Oswald, presumed assassin of the President and held in police custody, is murdered by nightclub owner Jack Ruby. 7. Special commission, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, is named by President Johnson to investigate President Kennedy's assassination. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Lasers are first used in delicate eye surgery. 9. Polaroid introduces color film. 10. Color TV is relayed via satellite for the first time. 11. Gordon Cooper completes 22 orbits in 34 hours and 20 minutes aboard Faith 7. He is the first astronaut to control his flight manually, and he lands almost directly on his splashdown target. 12. US nuclear-powered submarine <i>Thresher</i> is lost in the Atlantic Ocean with 129 men on board. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Most expensive motion picture to date, <i>Cleopatra</i>, opens in New York City and in theaters nationwide; film cost \$37 million. 14. Jack Nicklaus is the youngest man to win the Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Ga.

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1964	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Twenty-fourth Amendment to the Constitution is ratified. 2. Senate invokes cloture to end 75-day filibuster by southern Senators of Civil Rights Act. Congress passes Act which prohibits discrimination in public places for reason of color, race, religion, or national origin. 3. Warren Commission Report states there was no conspiracy in the assassination of President Kennedy. It finds Oswald a lone assassin. 4. Republican Party nominates Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona for President. 5. Three North Vietnamese PT boats attack US destroyer <i>Maddox</i> in international waters in the Gulf of Tonkin. US jets bomb PT boat bases and oil depot in North Vietnam. Congress passes resolution (Tonkin Gulf Resolution) which gives President Johnson power to use any action necessary to repel armed attack on US forces. 6. Economic Opportunity Act provides funds for youth programs, Job Corps, and community action programs in poverty-stricken areas. 7. Johnson and Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota are elected President and Vice President on the Democratic ticket. Johnson wins 486 electoral votes to Goldwater's 52. Only Roosevelt, in 1936, won more electoral votes. 8. District of Columbia votes for the first time in a presidential election. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. US Public Health Service charges that insecticides have killed thousands of fish in the Mississippi River since 1960 10. Polio vaccinations have cut new cases from 35,592 in 1953 to fewer than 100 in 1964. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. The Supremes record a string of hit songs including "Baby Love," "Stop in the Name of Love," and "Come See About Me." 12. "Beatle mania" sweeps the US as the album <i>Meet the Beatles</i> sells two million copies in one month. 13. <i>Mary Poppins</i>, a film starring Dick Van Dyke and Julie Andrews, becomes the most successful Disney film to date. 14. Report by the surgeon general's special committee, <i>Smoking and Health</i>, strongly links cigarette smoking with cancer (as well as other diseases) and calls for federal regulation. 15. There are 162 million television sets in use; more than 500 million radios.

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1965	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Viet Cong attack US military compound in South Vietnam. Johnson orders air raids on North Vietnam and sends US troops to fight. US halts bombing and makes peace effort to end Vietnam War. North Vietnam rejects US terms, and US resumes bombing and builds up troops in Vietnam. Large antiwar demonstrations break out in the US. US B-52s begin mass bombing of Viet Cong. 2. Martin Luther King leads march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to protest discrimination against black in voting registration. 3. Medicare is established; it provides hospital and medical care for persons 65 and older, financed through Social Security. 4. Blacks riot for six days in the Watts section of Los Angeles. National Guard restores order. 5. Cabinet-level Department of Housing and Urban Development is created, with Dr. Robert C. Weaver as Secretary (he is the first Black Cabinet member). 6. Malcolm X, preaching brotherhood between blacks and whites, is shot and killed in New York City. 7. McCarran-Walter Act is amended, abolishing the national origins quota system. 8. Voting Rights Act expands registration of black voters, especially in the South. Federal offices are set up to prevent abuses by registrars. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Virgil Grissom and John Young manually maneuver Gemini 3 during its three orbits of the Earth. 10. Early Bird is the first commercial communications satellite launched by INTELSAT (International Telecommunications Satellite Organization). 11. Edward White is the first American to walk in space when he spends 23 minutes outside Gemini 4 spacecraft. 12. Gordon Cooper and Charles Conrad complete 120 orbits in an 8-day flight aboard Gemini 5. 13. Gemini 8, piloted by Frank Borman and James Lovell is launched on a 14-day mission. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Petula Clark makes the popular recording of the song "Downtown." 15. Sonny Bono and his wife Cher achieve fame with their song "I Got You, Babe." 16. Alex Haley ghostwrites <i>The Autobiography of Malcolm X</i>.

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1966	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet-level Department of Transportation is established. 2. US increases its military strength in Vietnam and its bombing of the North; Hanoi and Haiphong are heavily bombed. US supports the regime of Premier Nguyen Cao Ky of South Vietnam and helps plan national elections. North Vietnam rejects major US peace offensive. US forces attack enemy targets in Cambodia for the first time. 3. Race riots occur in slum areas of Chicago, Cleveland, and other cities. Congress authorizes funds to assist re-building programs. 4. Ku Klux Klan makes attacks against blacks and civil rights workers in the South. 5. Supreme Court upholds Voting Rights Act of 1965. 6. Congress enacts truth in packaging law, requiring clear and correct statement of ingredients in about 8000 drug, cosmetic, and food products. 7. Supreme Court rules that a person accused of a crime must be informed of his constitutional rights, including the right to remain silent, before being questioned. 8. Edward Brooke is elected Senator from Massachusetts. He is the first black US Senator since Reconstruction. 9. President Johnson makes a 17-day tour of the Far East. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. RCA introduces integrated circuits in its new TVs. 11. Neil Armstrong and David Scott, aboard Gemini 8, rendezvous and dock with an unmanned target vehicle. 12. Surveyor 1 achieves a soft landing on the Moon and sends back 11,237 photographs. 13. Gemini 9, piloted by T. Stafford and Eugene Cernan, achieves a rendezvous but is unable to dock with a target vehicle. Cernan completes more than 2 hours of EVA (extra vehicular activity, i.e. a space walk). 14. Gemini 10, piloted by J. Young and Michael Collins achieves rendezvous with two separate targets. 15. Lunar Orbiter 1 studies potential landing sites for upcoming manned missions to the Moon. 16. Gemini 12, last of the Gemini series, is piloted by J. Lovell and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin. Aldrin completes two EVAs for a total of 5 ½ hours in space. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Motor Vehicle Safety Act sets standards for all American automobiles built after 1968. 18. Uniform Time Act establishes that daylight saving time is to be observed throughout the country from the last Sunday of April until the last Sunday in October. 19. There are 78 million passenger cars and 16 million trucks and buses registered; they travel a total of 910 billion miles per year. The number of deaths due to automobiles so far in the century is three times that of military deaths in all US wars.

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1967	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US forces attack Viet Cong in Mekong River delta. US suffers heavy losses near Con Thien, just south of the DMZ. US-South Vietnamese troops stop 5-day attack by Viet Cong-North Vietnamese on Loc Ninh near Cambodia. Johnson restricts bombing in North. US peace talks with Hanoi begin in Paris. US troops capture hill near Dak To after bloody 19-day battle. Antiwar protesters march in Washington, DC. 2. Twenty-fifth Amendment to the Constitution is ratified. It gives the President authority (with congressional approval) to appoint a Vice President when that office becomes vacant. 3. Riots occur in black areas of Cleveland, Detroit, Newark, Boston, New Haven, and other cities. 4. Thurgood Marshall becomes first black to sit on the Supreme Court. 5. Puerto Rick votes to remain a commonwealth rather than be a US state or independent country. 6. US Attorney General prohibits unauthorized wiretapping and electronic eavesdropping by federal agencies except in cases of national security. 7. General Lewis Hershey, Director of the Selective Service System, cancels draft deferments for college students who interfere with military recruiting. 8. Black mayors are elected in Gary, Indiana, and Cleveland, Ohio. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Computers are first used to generate electronic music. 10. 10 million children are vaccinated against measles. 11. Surveyor 5 lands in the Moon’s Sea of Tranquility, gathers data and transmits photographs. 12. Surveyor 6 lifts off from the Moon’s surface after gathering information. It moves several feet to a new location, lands, and gathers more data. 13. Trapped in the capsule of Saturn 1-B rocket on the ground, astronauts Grissom, White, and Chaffee are killed when first sweeps through it. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Tennessee’s “Monkey Law” is repealed. 15. US population reaches 200 million. Projected date for a population of 500 million is—barring catastrophes—the year 2015.
1968	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Viet Cong and North Vietnamese attack (the Tet Offensive) more than 100 cities, towns, and military bases in South Vietnam, including Saigon, Hue, and Khe Sanh. US and North Vietnam hold peace talks in Paris. Johnson ends all bombing of North Vietnam. 2. U. S. S. <i>Pueblo</i>, naval intelligence ship, is seized in January by North Korean patrol boats and taken to Wonsan, Korea. It is accused of violating Korean waters. US appeals to UN 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. James Watson publishes <i>The Double Helix</i>, describing the DNA molecule. 11. Congress recommends that the US switch to the metric system with 10 years. 12. Apollo 8 achieves the first manned lunar orbit (10 revolutions). Astronauts aboard are F. Borman, William Anders, and J. Lovell. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Stanley Kubrick’s science fiction extravaganza <i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i> wins an Oscar for special effects. 14. Classification of movies by G, PG, R, and X is begun. 15. US B–52 bomber carrying four unarmed hydrogen bombs crashes near Thule, Greenland, scattering bomb fragments, some radioactive, over the ice. 16. Atomic Energy Commission explodes

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
	<p>Negotiations bring release of <i>Pueblo</i> (in December).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Martin Luther King is assassinated in Memphis. Racial riots occur in about 125 cities. Escaped convict James Earl Ray pleads guilty to the murder and is sentenced (1969) to 99 years. 4. Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York is assassinated in Los Angeles. Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, Jordanian Arab, is convicted of the murder (1969) and sentenced to life imprisonment (1972). 5. Kerner Commission Report cites white racism as the major cause of civil disorder by American blacks. 6. Poor People's March, planned by the Late Dr. King, takes place in Washington, DC. 7. Democratic Party nominates Vice President Hubert Humphrey for President and Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine for Vice President, despite violent protests by antiwar supporters of Senator Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota. 8. Richard Nixon and Spiro T. Agnew are elected President and Vice President on the Republican ticket. Nixon wins 301 electoral votes; Humphrey 191 electoral votes; and former Governor George Wallace of Alabama, candidate of yet another racist third party, the American Independent Party, 46 electoral votes. 9. Congress enacts gun control law banning interstate sale of rifles, shotguns, and ammunition. 		<p>experimental hydrogen bomb, largest yet tested in US, 3800 feet below Nevada desert. Man-made "earthquake" is felt in California coastal cities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Nuclear submarine U. S. S. <i>Scorpion</i> sinks in Atlantic Ocean; 99 persons die.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1969	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US-North Vietnamese peace talks in Paris are expanded to include Viet Cong and South Vietnamese government. 2. Federal grand jury indicts eight antiwar protesters for conspiring to incite a riot at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Trial of the "Chicago 8" begins. They are acquitted (1970) on conspiracy to riot charge. 3. Nixon announces withdrawal of US troops from Vietnam. US B-52s intensify their bombing of Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia. 4. Warren Burger becomes Chief Justice of the United States, succeeding Earl Warren, who retires. 5. Car driven by Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts plunges off bridge on Chappaquiddick Island, Martha's Vineyard. His passenger, Mary Jo Kopechne, drowns. Kennedy survives but his political future is marred. 6. House of Representatives and the US Army investigate the massacre (1968) of South Vietnamese civilians at My Lai, South Vietnam. Many US soldiers are indicted, but only Lt. William L. Calley is convicted and found guilty (1971) of pre-meditated murder. Federal court later overturns the conviction and the army releases Calley (1974). 7. Large antiwar demonstrations take place, including Vietnam Moratorium Days in Washington, DC. 8. US and the USSR begin preliminary Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) in Helsinki. 9. Department of Agriculture halts the use of DDT in residential areas—first step toward its total ban in 1971. 10. Vice President Agnew accuses network television and the press of biased news coverage. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Neil Armstrong is the first man on the Moon. While Michael Collins pilots Apollo 11 in orbit around the Moon, Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin fly the Lunar Module to the surface where they remain for more than 21 hours. In Armstrong's first words from the Moon, "It's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." 12. Apollo 12's Lunar Module brings C. Conrad and Alan Bean to the Moon's surface while R. Gordon remains aboard the Apollo craft. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Woodstock Music and Art Fair, a 3-day rock concert, is held near Bethel, NY; an estimated 400,000 people attend. 14. Several traditionally all-male colleges, including Yale, Bowdoin, and Colgate, admit women students. 15. Pants suits become acceptable for everyday wear by women.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1970	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paris peace talks continue, and public pressure builds to end Vietnam War. National Guard troops fire on 1000 antiwar protesters at Kent State University in Ohio; four un-armed students are killed. US withdraws more troops from Vietnam. 2. US troops are sent into Cambodia to destroy North Vietnamese “sanctuaries.” 3. Congress establishes U. S. Office of Management and Budget. 4. Former Governor George Wallace of Alabama urges Southern governors to defy integration order of the federal government. 5. Nixon names the first two women generals in US history. 6. Congress establishes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), bringing under single management the 15 federal agencies dealing with pollution problems. 7. Commission on Civil Rights says presidential policy on school integration is inadequate. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Bell Telephone introduces the Picturephone. 9. When an oxygen line breaks causing two fuel cells to fail, Apollo 13 cancels its planned lunar landing. The astronauts, J. Lovell, Fred Haise, and John Swigert safely return to Earth using the life support system aboard the Lunar Module. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. “Doonesbury,” a satirical comic strip created by Garry Trudeau, has its debut in 30 newspapers. 11. 20 million Americans take part in activities and demonstrations against pollution to celebrate Earth Day. 12. US population is 205 million. 13. Report shows that “Sesame Street,” nation wide TV program, helps to improve skills of pre-school children. 14. University of California charges tuition for the first time in the school’s 102-year history.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1971	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>New York Times</i> publishes classified Pentagon papers about US involvement in Vietnam. Supreme court upholds the right of the <i>Times</i> and the <i>Washington Post</i> to publish the papers. Daniel Ellsberg, who disclosed the papers, is indicted on charges of unauthorized possession of secret documents. 2. Twenty-sixth Amendment to the Constitution is ratified. It lowers the minimum voting age in all elections from 21 to 18. 3. Nixon imposes 90-day freeze on wages, prices, and rents. He devalues the dollar (8.57%) by cutting its tie with gold. Pay Board and Price Commission are set up to curb inflation. 4. Supreme Court upholds the busing of children to integrate public schools where state laws have allowed segregation. 5. US blockades North Vietnam to cut off its war materiel from China and the USSR. North Vietnam's ports are mined and its rail and highway links to China are bombed. 6. Lewis F. Powell, Jr. and William H. Rehnquist become Supreme Court Justices. 7. Supreme Court rules that conscientious objectors who seek draft exemption must show they oppose all war, not just the Vietnam War. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. A. Shepard and Edgar Mitchell descend to the Moon's surface and collect 98 pounds of Moon rocks before returning to Apollo 14, piloted by Stuart Roosa. 9. Mariner 9 orbits Mars and returns 6876 photographs of the planet's surface. 10. Apollo 15 carries a 4-wheel Lunar Rover to the Moon. Driven by D. Scott and James Irwin, the vehicle travels more than 17 miles on the Moon's surface. Alfred Worden, meanwhile, performs a 38-minute EVA in deep space. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. <i>Godspell</i> and <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i> open on Broadway. 12. Carole King releases <i>Tapestry</i> album. 13. US Supreme Court rules that hiring policies must be the same for men and women. 14. Charles Manson and 3 of his female followers are convicted of first-degree murder in the slaying of actress Sharon Tate and 6 other persons. 15. Supreme Court rules federal and state aid to parochial schools is unconstitutional. 16. Cigarette advertisements banned from television.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1972	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US B-52s bomb Haiphong and Hanoi. US destroyers shell coastal areas of North Vietnam. Quang Tri falls to the North Vietnamese. Henry Kissinger, Nixon's Assistant for National Security Affairs, states "Peace is at hand." US continues to pull more troops out of Vietnam 2. Police arrest five men for breaking into the Democratic Party National Headquarters in the Watergate office complex, Washington, DC. Republicans deny Democratic charges that "Watergate burglars" were sanctioned by Nixon's campaign officials. John N. Mitchell, US Attorney General, resigns as head of the Committee to Re-elect the President. 3. Nixon visits Communist China and the USSR. 4. Supreme Court rules that the death penalty as administered in the US is "cruel and unusual punishment" and is unconstitutional. 5. Proposed 27th Amendment, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) prohibiting sex discrimination against women is sent to the states for ratification. 6. George Wallace campaigns for the Democratic presidential nomination. He is shot in Maryland, and is paralyzed from the waist down. 7. Senator George McGovern of South Dakota wins the Democratic nomination for President. His running mate Senator Thomas Eagleton of Missouri is replaced by former Peace Corps Director Sargent Shriver after Eagleton reveals he has been treated for manic depression. 8. Nixon and Agnew are re-elected President and Vice President. Nixon receives 521 electoral votes, McGovern 17, as the Democrats suffer their worst defeat in the most on-sided election since 1936. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. DDT is banned. 10. Robert Moog, engineer, patents the Moog synthesizer, an electronic musical instrument which can duplicate the sounds of various instruments with remarkable accuracy. 11. Work begins on a re-usable, manned rocket-powered craft launched from a high-flying airplane. The space shuttle would be able to navigate in space and return to Earth under its own power. 12. Pioneer 10 is launched to explore the asteroid belt and Jupiter. This probe will be the first man-made object to leave the solar system. 13. J. Young, Charles Duke, and Thomas Mattingly pilot Apollo 16 to America's fifth manned lunar landing. 14. Apollo 17 is the last manned Moon landing. Ed Cernan and Harrison Schmitt spend almost 75 hours on the Moon while Ronald Evans orbits overhead. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Gloria Steinem founds Ms. magazine. 16. Bette Midler releases <i>The Divine Miss M</i>, a record album that revives songs from the previous 40 years. 17. Helen Reddy causes a feminist sensation with her recording of "I Am Woman." 18. New York City Court of Appeals upholds right of New York City woman to be an umpire in professional baseball. 19. Military draft ends; armed forces become all-volunteer. 20. First woman rabbi in US, Sally J. Priesand, ordained in Cincinnati.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1973	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Senate committee, headed by Senator Samuel Ervin, holds televised hearings on the Watergate affair. Former White House counsel John Dean admits to playing a major role in the cover-up of the burglary and says Nixon and his aides knew about it. Chief White House advisers John Erlichman and H. R. Haldeman resign. Grand jury indicts Mitchell and Maurice H. Stans, finance chairman of Nixon's re-election campaign, for perjury and obstruction of justice. Archibald Cox, special prosecutor to investigate the Watergate affair, sues Nixon to obtain taped presidential conversations. Nixon fires Cox; US Attorney General Elliot Richardson resigns in protest. Judge John Sirica sentences seven Watergate break-in defendants to prison terms. House Judiciary Committee investigates possible impeachment of President Nixon. Leon Jaworski becomes new special prosecutor. Taped Watergate conversations are released to Judge Sirica; there are "gaps" in some conversations. 2. Vice President Agnew resigns pleading no contest to charges of income tax evasion. Gerald Ford, Republican leader in the House, becomes Vice President. 3. US ends military draft. 4. US and South Vietnam sign cease-fire with North Vietnam and Viet Cong, ending Vietnam War. 5. Henry Kissinger becomes Secretary of State. 6. Government charges against Ellsberg are dismissed. 7. Members of the American Indian movement (AIM) make Indian grievances known during 70-day seizure of trading post and church at Wounded Knee, South Dakota. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. The 110-story World Trade Center is completed in New York City briefly becoming the tallest building in the world. 9. Marijuana is used as a treatment for glaucoma. 10. Congress approves the Alaska pipeline. 11. Endangered Species Act prohibits the federal government from supporting any activities or projects that may be harmful to any endangered species. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. <i>The Exorcist</i> is the biggest money-making movie of the year. 13. Billy Joel releases the <i>Piano Man</i> album. 14. Steve Wonder releases the popular songs "You Are the Sunshine of My Life" and "All in Love is Fair." 15. 14 states restore the death penalty. 16. Population is 210.1 million, an increase of 1.6 million during 1972.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1974	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supreme Court rules unanimously that presidential executive privilege is not unlimited. 2. House Judiciary Committee holds televised impeachment hearings against President Nixon. He is charged with taking part in a conspiracy to obstruct justice in the Watergate cover-up, with failure to fulfill his constitutional oath through apparent abuses of power, and with unconstitutional defiance of Committee subpoenas. House recommends the three articles of impeachment. President Nixon resigns (August 9th) and is succeeded by Vice President Ford. 3. Nelson Rockefeller of New York is nominated and approved as Vice President. 4. Federal judge dismisses charges against Indian leaders who participated in the takeover at Wounded Knee. 5. Ford issues an unconditional pardon to Nixon for all federal crimes he may have committed as President. 6. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is charged with foreign and domestic abuse of its power. 7. President Ford proposes conditional amnesty to draft evaders and deserters of the Vietnam War. 8. Boston school committee reject court-ordered busing plan for desegregation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. The 110-story Sears Tower in Chicago is completed, becoming the tallest building in the world. 10. <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i> reports that males who smoke large amounts of marijuana have lower levels of testosterone. 11. National Research Act is passed to set standards and limits on research involving human beings. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Peter Benchley publishes <i>Jaws</i>. 13. Steven King publishes <i>Carrie</i>. 14. Popular rock groups of the time are Chicago, Steeley Dan, Yes, Jefferson Starship, Santana, the Eagles, and Utopia. 15. Journalists Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward publish <i>All the President's Men</i>, about their investigation of the Watergate case. 16. Two disaster movies, <i>The Towering Inferno</i> and <i>Earthquake</i>, introduces "Sensurround," a technique intended to produce more realistic sound in films. 17. "Streaking" where a participant unexpectedly appears nude before a mass of people, spreads from college campuses to public parks, concerts, and nationally televised awards presentations.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1975	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mitchell, Erlichman, and Haldeman are found guilty of perjury, conspiracy, and obstruction of justice in the Watergate cover-up. They are given prison terms. Judge Sirica releases from prison several convicted Watergate figures. 2. US evacuates troops, civilians, and refugees from South Vietnam. Congress approves \$405 million to aid Vietnamese refugees. 3. Cambodian Communists forces fire on and seize US merchant ship <i>Mayaguez</i> in the gulf of Siam. US Marines recapture ship and crew; 38 Americans die. 4. Two assassination attempts are made against President Ford in California. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Heart valves from pigs are used to replace defective valves in human hearts. 6. National Cancer Institute links cancer to pollution. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. The film <i>Jaws</i> breaks box office records across the US and causes a national wide “Jawsmania.” 8. Bruce Springsteen releases the album <i>Born to Run</i>.
1976	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US vetoes UN Security Council resolution condemning Israeli policies in occupied territories. US also vetoes resolution for the establishment of a Palestinian state. 2. US celebrates the 200th anniversary (bicentennial) of its independence. 3. US intelligence agencies are charged with unlawful investigation and surveillance of US citizens. 4. Senators Walter Mondale (Democrat) and Robert Dole (Republican) engage in the first televised debate between US vice presidential candidates. 5. US vetoes admission of Vietnam to the UN, saying Hanoi government has failed to account for 800 US servicemen still listed as missing in action. 6. Presidential candidates Ford (Republican) and James Earl (Jimmy) Carter, Jr. debate political issues on public television. 7. Carter and Mondale are elected President and Vice President. Carter wins 297 electoral votes, Ford 240, and former Governor Ronald Reagan of California, 1 electoral vote. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. A mysterious illness kills 29 people and affects 182 others, most of whom are attending an American Legion convention in Philadelphia. Known as “Legionnaire’s Disease,” it has scientists baffled. 9. After 51 people are paralyzed, a national vaccination program against swine flu is discontinued. 35 million people were vaccinated. 10. Lyme arthritis, a new, infectious form of arthritis, is discovered near Lyme, Connecticut. The disease is thought to be spread by virus-carrying insects. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. <i>Rocky</i>, a film starring Sylvester Stallone, wins the Oscar for Best Picture. 12. Alex Halley publishes <i>Roots: The Saga of an American Family</i>. 13. Women win 13 of 32 Rhodes Scholarships awarded to Americans; first time scholarships—established in 1903—are open to women. 14. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) finds Americans generally healthy. Life expectancy for white women, 79.2 years; nonwhite women, 72 years; white men 67.4 years; non-white, 62 years. Among younger persons, accidents and homicides are major causes of death.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1977	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President Carter pardons most draft evaders of the Vietnam period. 2. Congress creates new Cabinet-level Department of Energy. 3. Congress grants President Carter authority to eliminate or consolidate federal agencies that duplicate services. 4. President Carter makes “human rights” a part of US foreign policy. 5. Carter and General Torrijos sign new Panama Canal Treaty. 6. US imports exceed exports by \$26.72 billion—the largest trade deficit in its history. High oil consumption in US makes energy conservation necessary (energy crisis). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. <i>Enterprise</i>, the space shuttle, successfully completes several test flights and landings. 8. Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 are launched on a journey that will bring them near Jupiter and Saturn in 1979 and 1980. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. TV dramatization of <i>Roots</i> breaks records for audience size. 10. <i>Saturday Night Fever</i>, starring John Travolta, helps to popularize disco dance music. 11. George Lucas directs <i>Star Wars</i>. 12. Gary Gilmore, convicted murderer, is shot to death by firing squad at Utah State Prison. He is the first person to suffer the death penalty in the US since 1967. 13. US Supreme Court rules that spanking of students by school officials is not a violation of pupil’s constitutional rights. 14. Trans-Alaska pipeline system begins operation; 789-mile pipeline costs \$7.7 billion.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1978	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US and Communist China establish full diplomatic relations. 2. Senate ratifies new Panama Canal treaties; one treaty gives Panama full control of the Canal at the end of 1999; the other gives the US the right to defend the Canal's neutrality. 3. Mideast peace talks arranged by Carter are held by Egyptian President Sadat, Israeli Prime Minister Begin, and President Carter at Camp David, Maryland. Major agreement is reached, including the drafting of a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt (Camp David Accords). 4. Carter invokes the Taft-Hartley act to end coal strike. Mine workers and coal operators sign new contract, ending 110-day strike, the longest continuous walkout by miners. 5. Congress extends ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to 1982. 6. California voters approve Proposition 13, which drastically cuts property taxes; it reduces state revenues from \$12 billion to \$5 billion. 7. Carter signs a law that makes 70 the mandatory retirement age for most Americans. 8. Supreme court requires the University of California Medical School (at Davis) to admit Allan P. Bakke. He claimed the school's minority-admissions program made him a victim of "reverse discrimination." 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Widespread controversy surrounds claims that a human being has been cloned. 10. Texas Instruments introduces magnetic bubble memories for computers. 11. AMA concludes a 14-year study that shows that cigarette smoking causes heart disease and may cause cancer. 12. Plasma Physics Laboratory at Princeton University conducts controlled fusion experiments. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. <i>Star Wars</i> exceeds <i>Jaws</i> as the all-time money-making film in history taking in \$202 million. 14. Mass murder-suicides at Peoples Temple, Jonestown, Guyana, total 911. 15. Federal judge in Ohio rules that high school girls should not be prevented from participating with boys on same sports teams.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1979	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Cabinet-level Department of Education is established. 2. Large anti-nuclear rallies are held in Washington, DC, and New York City. 3. Supreme Court upholds voluntary “affirmative action” programs. 4. US Embassy in Teheran, Iran, is stormed and occupied by anti-Shah revolutionaries. 5. The Shah of Iran, deposed by the Iranian Revolution led by Ayatollah Khomeini, is admitted to the US to undergo surgery. He leaves for Panama following uproar over his stay in the US. 6. US suspends Iranian oil imports and Iranian assets in the US in retaliation for the holding of 52 US hostages in Teheran. 7. US embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, is stormed. Anti-American protests occur also in India, Bangladesh, Turkey, and Libya. 8. US annual inflation rate is 13.3%—the highest in 33 years. 9. Senate delays ratification of the new Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty between the US and the USSR (SALT II), 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. A black hole is discovered at the center of the Milky Way. 11. Gasohol—a mixture of gasoline and alcohol—gains more widespread use as a substitute for gasoline. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Dime-sized, silver and copper disk found near Bar Harbor, Maine, in 1961, is identified as Norse penny minted between 1065 and 1080. It is the first datable Viking artifact found in North America. 13. Three Mile Island, nuclear plant near Middletown, Pa, damaged in accident; major catastrophe looms; evacuation plans prepared for people living 10 to 10 miles downwind of plant.
1980	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US negotiates through other countries for release of Americans held hostage by Iranians in Teheran. US rescue mission fails with plane-helicopter collision in Iranian desert. 2. US acquires military bases in Oman and Somalia. 3. Ronald Reagan and George Bush are elected President and vice President on the Republican ticket, defeating Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale (Democrats) and John Anderson and Patrick Lucey (Independents). 4. US defense network’s computer system mistakenly triggers alarm against nuclear attack. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Technicians finish cleaning damaged nuclear reactor at Three Mile Island. Radiation level is acceptable and residents are permitted to return to the area. 6. US declares a state of emergency at the Love Canal in Niagara Falls, NY, an area contaminated by toxic chemical waste. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Mt. St. Helens, a volcano in Washington state, erupts and continues to erupt intermittently throughout the year. 8. Wildlife refuges, totaling 40 million acres, are set up in Alaska under US federal protection. Development of oil, gas, and mineral resources is barred for at least 20 years. 9. CBS names Dan Rather to succeed Walter Cronkite as chief anchorman, following Cronkite’s retirement in 1981.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1981	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After the inauguration of recently elected Ronald Reagan, the 52 American hostages held for 444 days are freed by Iran, eventually returning to a heroes' welcome. In return, the US agrees to release \$8 billion in Iranian assets frozen after the US embassy in Teheran was seized by militant Iranian students. 2. Reagan is shot and seriously wounded in Washington, recuperates slowly after surgery. His would-be assassin, John W. Hinckley, Jr., is found not guilty by reason of insanity. 3. Reagan fires striking air traffic control workers after the 15,000 union members reject an 11% pay raise and walk out. Reagan says, "the law is the law, and the law says they cannot strike." Replacements are hired and trained. 4. Sandra Day O'Connor begins her term as the first women justice on the Us Supreme court. 5. Reagan expands the powers of the CIA, permitting pursuit of "pertinent" domestic intelligence. 6. The President resumes sales of wheat to Russia that had been embargoed by President Carter after the Russian invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. 7. US Navy jets shoot down 2 Libyan war planes over the Mediterranean Sea. The US says the Libyans fired first. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. IBM introduces its model of the personal computer (PC), destined to revolutionize office automation and move corporations away from mainframe computers, a market dominated by IBM. Small companies begin to "clone" the IBM PC. 9. The first test-tube baby in the US is born. The mother's egg was fertilized in a laboratory, then implanted in her womb. 10. Scientists identify the virus that causes the fatal condition called AIDS. Initially confined to homosexual men and Haitian immigrants, AIDS begins to emerge as an epidemic among other groups. 11. The space shuttle <i>Columbia</i> becomes the first spaceship to be used a second time. A fleet of space shuttles is under construction. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. The Supreme Court rules that exempting women from the military draft does not violate the Constitution. 13. George Washington's dentures are stolen from the National Museum of American History. They are made of gold and ivory, not wood, as popularly believed.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1982	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reagan proposes that the US and the Soviet Union reduce their nuclear arsenals by 1/3. Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) begin in Geneva, Switzerland. 2. The Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution is defeated as only 35 of the required 38 states approve it within the 10-year limit for ratification. 3. A federal judge in Arkansas rules it is unconstitutional to require schools to teach “creationism” if they teach the theory of evolution. 4. Reagan orders reinstatement of the US military draft registration for 18-year-olds. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. EPCOT Center—the Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow—opens at Disney World in Florida. 6. Medical history is made at the University of Utah Medical Center when doctors successfully implant a permanent artificial heart in 61-year-old Barney Clark. 7. Apple Computer becomes the first personal computer firm to reach \$1 billion in annual sales. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Steven Spielberg releases <i>E. T. the Extra-Terrestrial</i>. 9. <i>Cats</i> premiers on Broadway. 10. Toxic waste dumps are identified as a major hazard by the EPA, which lists more than 400 sites as clean-up priorities. 11. A government survey of income tax returns shows the IRS is twice as likely as taxpayers to make mathematical errors.
1983	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reagan describes the Soviet Union as “an evil empire” in a speech in which he also opposes a nuclear arms freeze and favors outlawing abortion. 2. Reagan proposes an anti-ballistic missile system, the Strategic Defense System, SDI, commonly known as “Star Wars.” 3. A Congressional committee condemns the US World War 1 policy of interning Japanese Americans. Financial compensation for the victims is recommended. 4. A blue-ribbon panel finds the nation’s educational standards “are being eroded by a rising tide of mediocrity,” threatening the nations future. (A Nation At Risk) 5. US Marines and Army Rangers invade and subdue the tiny island nation of Grenada after the US decides that Caribbean political and economic stability is threatened by Grenada’s leftist government. 6. Reagan defends military and economic aid to Contra rebels fighting against the Sandinista government of Nicaragua. 7. The birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. is declared a national holiday to be observed on the 3rd Monday of January. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Sally Ride becomes the first American woman in space, as a crew member on the 2nd mission of the space shuttle <i>Challenger</i>. 9. The American Medical Association calls for a ban on boxing, saying it leads to chronic brain damage. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Cable television is watched in 25 million homes, a 16% share of the TV marketplace. 11. VCRs are catching on throughout the US. By midyear 7 million homes have a VCR, and they are selling at a rate of 250,000 a month. 12. M*A*S*H airs its final episode.

Year	Political	Economic/Technological	Social/Cultural
1984	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reagan and Bush are re-elected over Democratic candidate Walter Mondale and Vice Presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro (the first woman chosen by a major party to run for Vice President). Reagan and Bush carry 49 of 50 states. 2. Reagan goes to China to promote trade. He signs several accords easing US-China commercial relations. 3. The US Supreme court tightens rules for political asylum, holding that those seeking refuge in the US must show “clear probability” of persecution in their native country. 4. The Civil Rights Commission votes to end use of numerical quotas in employment promotions of African Americans. 5. Nearly 80 banks fail, the highest number since 1938. 6. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) must cover \$4.5 billion in bad loan losses at continental Illinois Bank, one of its largest payout ever. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, in a mission on the space shuttle <i>Challenger</i>, becomes the first US woman to walk in space. 8. US orders “passive-restraint” airbags or automatic seatbelts on all new US cars by 1989. 9. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop announces that nonsmokers can get cancer from “second hand smoke.” 10. Bell Labs announces a computer chip with a megabyte of memory, capable of storing 4 times as much data as its predecessor. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Michael Jackson releases <i>Thriller</i>. 12. Bruce Springsteen releases <i>Born in the USA</i>. 13. <i>Amadeus</i>, a film about the life of Mozart, is one of the most successful films of the year. 14. The Supreme Court holds that exhibiting a publicly financed nativity scene does not violate the First Amendment. 15. The movie industry begins using a new, PG-13 rating.

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1985	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reagan begins his second term by calling for reform in federal income tax policy as part of his “Second American Revolution.” 2. US becomes the world’s leading debtor nation, owing foreigners \$130 billion. It marks the first time since 1914 that the US has owed more than it is owed. 3. US Supreme Court bars a moment of silence in public schools, declaring it fosters religious activity in schools, which was declared unconstitutional in 1962. 4. Reagan meets Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in a Geneva summit, the first US-Soviet summit in 6 years. Gorbachev insists that the US halt the “Star Wars” anti-missile system, but Reagan refuses. 5. The Gramm-Rudman bill, requiring a balanced budget for the federal government by 1991, becomes law. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Obesity called a major killer, particularly among those who are more than 20% overweight, a category that includes 34 million Americans. 7. Libby Riddles becomes the first woman to win the grueling Iditarod Trail Dog Sled Race in Alaska.
1986	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The space shuttle <i>Challenger</i> explodes 74 seconds after liftoff, killing all 7 astronauts aboard. One victim, Christa McAuliffe, is a school teacher who had volunteered under the “teacher-in-space” program. 2. Reagan authorizes an air attack on Libya for its terrorism; Libyan assets are frozen, and US trade with Libya is banned. 3. The Iran-Contra scandal erupts in Washington. The Reagan administration confirms it sold arms to Iran, then apparently diverted the money illegally to aid rebels in Nicaragua. 4. Supreme Court upholds affirmative action, which gives hiring preference to minorities. 5. The national debt passes the \$2 trillion mark, having doubled in 5 years. 6. William Rehnquist becomes Chief Justice of the United States, succeeding retiring Chief Justice Warren Burger. Antonin Scalia takes Rehnquist’s seat as Associate Justice. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. The 100th birthday of the Statue of Liberty is celebrated. 8. Studies claim that 13% of American adults are illiterate. 9. Asians account for more than 50% of legally admitted foreigners.

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1987	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reagan and Gorbachev sign a treaty in Washington to eliminate short- and medium-range nuclear weapons. 2. Congressional committees investigating the Iran-Contra Affair blame White House “secrecy, deception, and disdain for the law.” Investigators claim that the US sold weapons to Iran and used the profits illegally to buy arms for Contra guerrillas fighting the Nicaraguan government. 3. The Reagan administration proposes the government’s first trillion-dollar budget. 4. After contentious hearings, conservative federal judge Robert Bork is denied confirmation to the US Supreme Court by the Senate. 5. The Dow Jones industrial average plunges 508 points–22.6%–on “Black Monday,” by far the largest on-day loss in history. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Los Angeles is rocked by a severe earthquake that causes 6 deaths and widespread damage. 7. The Supreme Court upholds a voluntary affirmative action plan for public employees to correct sex discrimination. 8. Alan Greenspan is names Federal Reserve Board Chairman.
1988	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vice President George Bush is elected 41st President, defeating Governor Michael Dukakis. 2. US indicts Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega on drug-smuggling charges. 3. Anthony Kennedy is confirmed as an associate justice of the Supreme Court. 4. Lt. Colonel Oliver North is indicted in the Iran-Contra Affair, along with former National Security Adviser John Poindexter and other participants. The charge is conspiracy to defraud the US by planning to illegally supply arms to the Nicaraguan Contras. 5. The Cabinet-level Department of Veterans Affairs is established. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Aspirin is found to reduce heart attacks. Using aspirin regularly, it says, reduces the risk of heart attack by as much as 47% 7. A <i>New York Times</i> study reports that despite new awareness of nutrition, most Americans still love junk food. And while 46% of women say they pay close attention to their health needs, only 31 % of men do so. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. The White House begins random drug testing for presidential employees after reports of off-duty cocaine use by 3 White House guards. 9. The Supreme Court rules that public-school officials have broad powers to censor school newspapers.

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1989	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The oil tanker <i>Exxon Valdez</i> runs aground in the Gulf of Alaska, causing the largest oil spill in US history. Exxon, Alaska, and the US government spent billions of dollars on the cleanup, but the coastal ecological system is devastated. 2. US military forces enter Panama and capture President Manuel Noriega, who is taken to the US to answer a drug indictment. 3. The Supreme Court declares that the Constitution protects as “free speech” the rights of protesters to burn the US flag. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The US space shuttle <i>Atlantis</i> and its 5 member crew deploy the Magellan spacecraft on a 15-month trip to Venus. 5. The drug AZT is reported effective in delaying the onset of AIDS for those infected with the virus who have not yet shown symptoms. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The movie <i>Batman</i>, starring Michael Keaton and Jack Nicholson, become a major movie hit.
1990	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Iraq invades Kuwait. George Bush attempts diplomatic resolution but also dispatches approximately 400,000 US military personnel to the Persian Gulf. 2. In midterm elections, Democrats increase their majority in the House and Senate and hold their own in the gubernatorial races. 3. David Souter becomes an associate justice of the US Supreme Court. 4. Discrimination against the disables is banned under the Americans with Disabilities Act. 5. The House of Representatives defeats a proposed constitutional amendment making desecration of the US flag a crime, following a Supreme court decision overturning federal legislation protecting the flag. 6. President Bush, whose campaign slogan in 1988 was “Read my lips–no new taxes,” upsets supporters by announcing that reducing the federal deficit would require “tax-revenue increases.” 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. General Motors unveils the Saturn, a compact car aimed at a young market. 8. The Environmental Protection Agency reports a 90% drop in lead and 28% decline in Carbon Monoxide in the air since 1980. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. US unemployment reaches 5.9%, its highest level in 3 years. 10. Two well-known European car makers, Jaguar and Saab, are bought by US automakers. Ford buys Jaguar, for \$2.5 billion; General Motors buys 50% of Saab for \$600 million.

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1991	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The US leads an allied military force in the 6-week Persian Gulf War, which frees Kuwait from the Iraqi occupation begun in 1990. After diplomacy fails to persuade the Iraqis to pull back, the US obtains UN approval for a multi-nation attack force. 2. In a campaign code-named Desert Storm, US troops and forces from 34 other countries attack Iraq and occupied Kuwait. Iraq fires SCUD missiles into Israel and Saudi Arabia. In battle, large numbers of Iraqi troops are killed or surrender, while Allied losses are light. 3. Clarence Thomas wins confirmation to the US Supreme Court after televised hearings into charges of sexual harassment brought by Anita Hill, a law professor and former colleague. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Alzheimer's disease emerges as a major US public health issue. 5. Both Pan Am and Eastern Airlines go out of business. 6. Computers continue to be miniaturized: Hewlett-Packard introduces a handheld model that weighs less than a pound. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Rap music extends its influence to mainstream America through artists such as M. C. Hammer, 2 Live Crew, and Run DMC. 8. New York City's Carnegie Hall celebrates its centennial. 9. The Supreme Court rules that use of a forced confession in a criminal case does not automatically void the conviction. 10. Los Angeles Lakers basketball star Magic Johnson discloses that he has the HIV virus that causes AIDS and retires as a player.
1992	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governor Bill Clinton of Arkansas, a Democrat, defeats incumbent Republican President George Bush in a presidential race influenced by the third-party candidacy of Texas billionaire Ross Perot, who nets 19% of the popular vote. 2. US Marines are ordered to Somalia in East Africa with mission of feeding the starving and restoring order among battling warlords. 3. Manuel Noriega, ousted president of Panama, is convicted in Miami of drug trafficking, money laundering, and racketeering, and is sentenced to 40 years in prison. 4. By a 504 margin the Supreme Court reaffirms the core of a woman's constitutional right to abortion but upholds parts of a Pennsylvania law restricting access to abortion. 5. 27th Amendment to the Constitution is ratified. It prohibits Congress from instituting midterm pay raises. Congress originally passed the measure, written by James Madison, in 1789. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Dell Computer brings out a trend-setting 3.5 lb. Laptop, accelerating the use of these small computers. 7. Hurricane Andrew devastates a 25-mile-wide strip of southeast Florida. Damages are estimated to cost \$10 billion. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Television show <i>Murphy Brown</i> becomes controversial when the campaigning Vice President Dan Quayle says it undermines US moral values by presenting its star as a single mother. 9. US unemployment soars to 7.8%, its highest rate since 1983.

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1993	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A terrorist bomb explodes in New York City's 110-story World Trade Center, killing 6 and injuring hundreds. The FBI arrest Muslim fundamentalists in a terrorist plot to bomb New York sites. 2. The President and First Lady press for national health care reform, but the controversial bill succumbs to political pressure. 3. Janet Reno is confirmed as the first woman US Attorney General 4. Congress passes the North American Free Trade Agreement, which links Canada, the US, and Mexico in a "free-trade zone." 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Computer users in record numbers join the Internet, the information superhighway that links people and computers worldwide. Meanwhile, price wars bring down the cost of home personal computers and software. 6. The blurry Hubble Space Telescope is brought into focus by astronauts from the US space shuttle <i>Endeavor</i>, whose astronauts fit new optics and devices that correct the \$3billion observatory. 7. The food and Drug Administration says second-hand smoke causes 6,000 US death yearly. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. <i>Jurassic Park</i> and <i>Schindler List</i> are among the year's biggest movies. 9. David Koresh, leader of the Branch Davidians, and more than 70 of his followers die when 100 federal agents attack his cult's compound in Waco, Texas. Four agents died in an earlier attack.
1994	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In midterm elections, Republicans gain control of the House and Senate for the first time in 40 years, weakening the power of Democratic President Clinton. 2. Clinton ends 19-year-old trade embargo against Vietnam. 3. Supreme Court rules that pro-life protesters can be barred from getting too close to abortion clinics and can be sued for blocking access. 4. A gunman opposed to abortion kills 2 people and wounds 5 at 2 Massachusetts abortion clinics. 5. Former President Richard Nixon dies. His funeral is attended by the 5 living US presidents—Clinton, Bush, Reagan, Carter, and Ford. 6. Stephen Breyer becomes an associate justice of the Supreme Court, replacing Justice Harry Blackmun, who retires. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Anti-smoking campaigns become widespread as some cities pass laws banning smoking in office buildings, stores, and restaurants. 400,000 US deaths yearly are linked to smoking. 8. Food and Drug Administration extends approval of Prozac, the best-selling anti-depressant drug, to treat bulimia and obsessive-compulsive disorder. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Former football hero O. J. Simpson pleads not guilty to charges of murdering his former wife and a male friend. His trial becomes the media circus of the age. 10. Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley are "married." 11. Among the biggest films of the year are <i>Forrest Gump</i> and <i>The Lion King</i>. 12. Kurt Cobain, lead singer for the group Nirvana, commits suicide. 13. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, widow of President John Kennedy, dies.