

AMERICA

OCTOBER 1776-2026

250

THIS MONTH IN
AMERICAN HISTORY

 **Oct. 27, 1787**
The campaign to ratify the U.S. Constitution begins as the first Federalist Paper is published in New York.

 **Oct. 16, 1859**
Abolitionist John Brown and supporters raid the federal armory at Harper's Ferry looking to arm enslaved Americans and cause a revolt.

 **Oct. 26, 1881**
Lawmen kill three outlaws during the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona.

 **Oct. 1, 1919**
The first game of the "Black Sox" World Series is played. Members of the White Sox conspire with gamblers to throw the series.

 **Oct. 6, 1927**
The first talking picture "The Jazz Singer" premieres.

 **Oct. 30, 1938**
Orson Welles reads "The War of the Worlds" on a radio broadcast spreading panic.

 **Oct. 24, 1945**
The United Nations is formally established after its charter is ratified.

 **Oct. 5, 1947**
Harry Truman delivers the first televised presidential address from the White House.

 **Oct. 14, 1947**
Chuck Yeager becomes the first pilot to break the sound barrier.

 **Oct. 1, 1958**
NASA begins operations.

 **Oct. 16, 1962**
The Cuban Missile Crisis begins, putting the U.S. and USSR on the brink of nuclear war.

 **Oct. 15, 1966**
The Black Panther Party is founded in Oakland, California.

 **Oct. 11, 1968**
Apollo 7, the first crewed Apollo mission, launches.

 **Oct. 29, 1969**
The first message is transmitted over ARPANET, a technology that became the foundation of the internet.

 **Oct. 1, 1971**
Walt Disney World opens and welcomes its first guests in Florida.

 **Oct. 17, 1989**
An earthquake strikes the San Francisco Bay Area during a live World Series broadcast.

 **Oct. 11, 1991**
Anita Hill testifies during Clarence Thomas' Supreme Court confirmation hearings, captivating the nation.

 **Oct. 29, 1998**
John Glenn, at age 77 and aboard the shuttle Discovery, becomes the oldest person to fly in space.

 **Oct. 7, 2001**
U.S. military operations begin in Afghanistan following the 9/11 attacks.

 **Oct. 26, 2001**
The USA PATRIOT Act is signed into law.

FORD'S MODEL T CHANGES INDUSTRY

In his quest to make an affordable, simple to operate and durable vehicle, Henry Ford set standards for the industry and revolutionized manufacturing.

Ford introduced the Model T on Oct. 1, 1908.

The vehicle was mass produced on Ford Motor Company's moving assembly line at its Highland Park Plant.

The line decreased vehicle assembly time from 12.5 hours to 93 minutes, demonstrating how factories could improve efficiency.

Mass production also reduced the cost of building the Model T, allowing Ford to sell it for \$850 but eventually reducing the price to \$260.

Ford field tested the new vehicle himself on a hunting trip to Wisconsin and northern Michigan.

The Model T also became famous for performing stunts, such as climbing the stairs of the Tennessee State Capitol and reaching the top of Pikes Peak



The Associated Press

Ford Model Ts are shown at a gas station in 1910.

in Colorado.

It was the first vehicle to have a steering wheel on the left side, the first to have its engine block and crankcase cast as a single unit, the first to have a removable cylinder head and introduced a transmission

that made shifting gears easy for everyone.

A windshield was provided as an option before it was standardized.

From 1908 to 1927, Ford built and sold 15 million Model Ts, providing mobility to work-

ing-class Americans.

The Model T era also is responsible for the 8-hour workday and minimum wage, both introduced by Ford in 1914 to combat employee turnover on its fast-paced but monotonous assembly line.

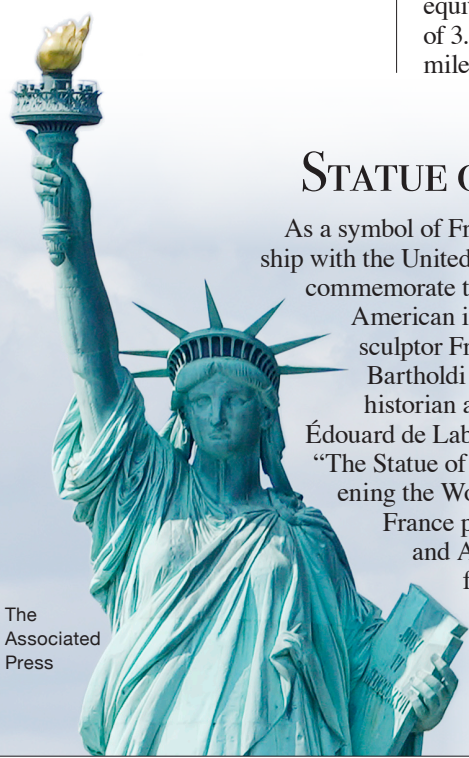
BY THE NUMBERS: THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE



Library of Congress

A dry fall in 1871 fueled numerous wildfires across the American Midwest. On Oct. 8, 1871, an evening fire started in Southwest Chicago and burned through the whole city over the course of one and a half days. The Great Chicago Fire destroyed much of the city. Here are details about the fire, by the numbers:

Homeless	Damage	Fatalities
Approximately 100,000 people were left homeless. At the time that was 31% of Chicago's population.	Approximately 17,500 buildings were destroyed and \$222 million in damage done.	An estimated 300 people died.
	Size	
	Approximately 2,124 acres burned during the fire, the equivalent of 3.3 square miles.	



The Associated Press

STATUE OF LIBERTY DEDICATED IN 1886

As a symbol of France's friendship with the United States and to commemorate the centennial of American independence, sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and French historian and abolitionist Édouard de Laboulaye created "The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World."

France paid for the statue and America paid for the pedestal on which she stands.

Lady Liberty was dedicated on Oct. 28, 1886 in

New York Harbor, 11 years after the project started.

It was first delayed by the Franco-Prussian war, then by the death of the statue's internal designer.

Liberty was presented to the U.S. in Paris on July 4, 1884, but the U.S. still did not have funds for the pedestal.

The hand with the torch was put on display as part of the fundraising. American poet Emma Lazarus also wrote "The New Colossus" as part of the effort in 1883. In it are the words, "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free ..." The poem was later cast onto a bronze plaque and mounted inside the pedestal's lower level.

CORNWALLIS SURRENDERS

British Gen. Charles Cornwallis marched his army of 8,000 men into Yorktown expecting to meet British ships sent from New York. Instead, the army was surrounded by approximately 17,000 American and French troops led by Gens. George Washington and Jean-Baptiste Rochambeau.

On Oct. 19, 1781, Cornwallis surrendered, his army depleted of food and ammunition and no hope for escape.

The British lacked funds to build a new army and appealed to America for peace, essentially ending the Revolutionary War.

GUNMAN KILLS 60 IN LAS VEGAS



The Associated Press

In the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, Stephen Paddock fired on a crowd of 22,000 at a country music festival from his hotel room window in Las Vegas on Oct. 1, 2017. He killed 60 people and injured about 850, taking his own life before police could breach the door to his room.

FBI and local law enforcement probes could not determine Paddock's motive.

AMERICANS BORN THIS MONTH

- John Adams, Oct. 30, 1735
- Rutherford B. Hayes, Oct. 4, 1822
- Chester A. Arthur, Oct. 5, 1829
- Theodore Roosevelt, Oct. 27, 1858
- Frederic Remington, Oct. 4, 1861
- Robert Goddard, Oct. 5, 1882
- Eleanor Roosevelt, Oct. 11, 1884
- Groucho Marx, Oct. 2, 1890
- Eddie Rickenbacker, Oct. 8, 1890
- Dwight D. Eisenhower, Oct. 14, 1890
- E.E. Cummings, Oct. 14, 1894
- Buster Keaton, Oct. 4, 1895
- Thelonious Monk, Oct. 10, 1917
- Doris Miller, Oct. 12, 1919
- Jimmy Carter, Oct. 1, 1924
- Mickey Mantle, Oct. 20, 1931
- Jesse Jackson, Oct. 8, 1941
- Hillary Clinton, Oct. 26, 1947
- Sigourney Weaver, Oct. 8, 1949
- John Mellencamp, Oct. 7, 1951
- Bill Gates, Oct. 28, 1955
- Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Oct. 3, 1962
- Evander Holyfield, Oct. 19, 1962
- Luke Perry, Oct. 11, 1966
- Julia Roberts, Oct. 28, 1967
- Brett Favre, Oct. 10, 1969
- Matt Damon, Oct. 8, 1970
- Usher, Oct. 14, 1978
- Cardi B, Oct. 11, 1992

BATTLE OF VALCOUR BAY

The Battle of Valcour Island on Lake Champlain, N.Y., on Oct. 11, 1776, is regarded as one of the first naval battles of the Revolutionary War and one of the first battles fought by the U.S. Navy. The Benedict Arnold-led American force lost 11 ships and nearly 200 sailors but defended the lake and stalled British plans to reach the upper Hudson River valley.

O.J. SIMPSON VERDICT

An estimated 150 million Americans — 57% of the adult population — tuned in on Oct. 3, 1995, to watch O.J. Simpson be acquitted of murdering his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman.

The televised trial drew 5.5 million viewers a day.



O.J. Simpson

DARK DAYS ON WALL STREET

Two stock market crashes in less than a week on Oct. 24 and Oct. 29, 1929, triggered the Great Depression.

The days became known as "Black Thursday" and "Black Tuesday."

Oct. 19, 1987 was "Black Monday," when the stock market suffer its largest single-day percentage drop in history.

ROOSEVELT DELIVERS SPEECH WITH BULLET IN HIS CHEST

President Theodore Roosevelt was shot in the chest by a would-be assassin after leaving his hotel in Milwaukee on his way to give a speech on Oct. 14, 1912.

The bullet passed through his paper manuscript and his eyeglass case before lodging in his chest.

Roosevelt, seeking his third term, delivered his speech before being treated. The blood-stained shirt he wore is on display in New York City.

