Discovery of America- Christopher Columbus discovers America by accident in 1492. Originally he was in search of India but came across America instead.

Independence Day- On July 4th, 1776, the thirteen original colonies declared independence from Great Britain.

Civil War- the American Civil war was fought from 1861 until 1865. It was under Abraham Lincoln’s presidency that this war occurred. The eleven southern “slave states” formed the Confederacy. The remaining 25 states formed the Union. The union won the war and slavery was abolished.

World War II- World War II lasted from 1939 until 1945. Although America originally refused to get involved in the war, we joined the Allies, which included Greece, Australia, Syria and Chile, after Pearl Harbor was bombed by Japan on December 7th, 1941. This had terrible effects for Japanese-Americans, they lost land, had their homes and shops closed, were often beaten and moved to concentration-camp like facilities. America dropped two atom bombs on the Japanese cities on Nagasaki and Hiroshima on August 6th, 1945.

Little Rock Nine- Many years after cases such as Plessy v. Ferguson and Brown v. Board of Education, the government said the schools were to be de-segregated. However, not many schools did so. Nine African-American students were enrolled in Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas in 1957. Only eight of these students graduated, the 9th decided to leave the school because of constant bullying and discrimination. Though none of them lived to see what they accomplished, it’s because of kids like them that schools are not separated today.

September 11, 2001- Regarded as one of the darkest days in modern American history, 9/11 was when the twin towers were attacked by hijackers. Soon after, officials traced the bombings back to Al-Qaida, a terrorist group based in Iraq. In response, America waged war on Iraq and increased the number of troops in Afghanistan. Ten years later, we still have troops stationed in those countries in addition to many others.

Hurricane Katrina- On August 28th, a category 5 hurricane hit the Gulf of Mexico. Nearly 2000 people died in the actual hurricane but the aftermath caused much more havoc and devastation. Entire neighborhoods in New Orleans were destroyed. FEMA stepped in and tried to help but many people claim that they didn’t really do anything to help the victims themselves. Some of the areas that were affected were never able to be reconstructed to their previous glory.

Election of President Obama- On November 4th, 2008, Barack Obama was the first African-American president to be elected. This election had the highest voter turnout in years. Many people say this election showed how racially divided the country really was.

[See full size image](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/administration-official/ao_image/President_Official_Portrait_HiRes.jpg)"Google Images." *Google*. Www.whitehouse.gov. Web. 20 Oct. 2011. <http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/administration-official/ao\_image/President\_Official\_Portrait\_HiRes.jpg>.

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