TIMELINE

13,000 years ago (or more): People are living in Montana.

1492 Columbus reaches North America.

1720 (approximately): Horses arrive in Montana.

1775 Smallpox epidemic kills many Montana Indians.

1776 The United States declares independence from Great Britain.

1804–1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition

1807 First fur trading post in Montana
1830s Montana fur traders turn from beaver to bison.

1833–1834 Artist Karl Bodmer travels up the Missouri River painting portraits of American Indians.

1837 Smallpox epidemic kills many Montana Indians.

1841 Father DeSmet builds St. Mary’s Mission.

1847 Sheep arrive in Montana.

1850s Cattle ranching begins in Montana.
1851  First Fort Laramie Treaty
1855  Lame Bull and Hell Gate Treaties

1862  Montana gold rush begins; Congress passes the Homestead Act.
1864  Montana becomes a territory.
1866  A typical miner’s cabin
1868  Second Fort Laramie Treaty
1870  20,438 non-Indians live in Montana.
1872  Yellowstone National Park established
1876  Battle of the Greasy Grass (Battle of the Little Bighorn)

1877  Nez Perce War

1880  First train arrives in Montana; beginning of the Indian boarding school era

1882  Crow Reservation reduced by 1.5 million acres.

1883  Northern Pacific Railroad completes transcontinental line; fewer than 200 bison remain on the plains; copper boom begins in Butte.
1886–87  Hard Winter (end of the open-range cattle boom)

1889  Montana becomes a state.

1896  Twenty-fifth Infantry troops test bicycle technology by riding through Yellowstone National Park.

1900  243,000 non-Indians live in Montana.

1904  First Crow Fair held

1905  Creation of the U.S. Forest Service

1907  Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad arrives in Montana.
1909  Enlarged Homestead Act

1911  First Hutterite colony is established; pilot Cromwell Dixon becomes the first person to fly across the Continental Divide.

1914–1918  World War I

1916  Creation of the National Park Service

1917  Drought begins.

1918  “Spanish flu” pandemic
1920 Populations of Montana is 548,889 (one-quarter of the population is foreign born); first commercial production of oil in Montana

1921 Sugar companies begin to recruit Mexican farmworkers.

1924 Indian Citizenship Act
1928 Montana has approximately 50 miles of paved highway.

1929 Beginning of the Great Depression

1933-1940 Fort Peck Dam built by the Public Works Administration (PWA)

1939 Montana has approximately 7,200 miles of paved highway.

1939–1945 World War II
1942–1944 The U.S. Army trains sled dogs for military service at Camp Rimini west of Helena.

1950 Population of Montana is 593,000.

1951 Williston Basin oil field discovered

1955 Open-pit mining begins in Butte.

1954–1975 Vietnam War

1964 The U.S. Congress passes the Wilderness Act.
1972  Montana adopts a new state constitution.

1979  Hmong refugees arrive in Montana.


2005  Judith Gap Wind Farm opens; the Montana legislature funds Indian Education for All.

2010  Agriculture remains Montana’s number one industry.

2020  Population of Montana is 1,084,225.
IMAGE CREDITS

TIMELINE

Montana Historical Society is abbreviated as MHS.

p. 71, Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1804 by Dean Cornwell, oil on canvas, 1954, MHS X1955.10.01, gift of New York Life Insurance Company

p. 72, top, Dacota Woman and Assiniboin Child by Karl Bodmer, print, ca. 1839-1849, MHS X1970.27.04

p. 72, bottom, The Roundup by Charles M. Russell, oil on canvas, 1913, MHS X1952.01.07, Mackay Collection of C. M. Russell Art

p. 73, top, Signing the 1855 Hell Gate Treaty at Council Grove, E.S. Paxson, oil on linen, 1914, 65" x 67". Missoula County Art Collection. Photo: © 2000 Chris Autio, courtesy Missoula Art Museum p. 73, bottom, My Cabin in Montana, 1866 by Peter Toft, watercolor, 1866, MHS 1996.89.01

p. 74, top, North Coast Limited in the Montana Rockies by Wilhelm Gustav Krollman, poster, ca. 1930, MHS 1980.61.162, Haynes Foundation Collection, gift of Mrs. Isabel Haynes

p. 74, bottom, Miners in the Stope by Paul Sample, oil on canvas, 1937, MHS X1966.21.10, gift of Francis Kelley Wood, Mary Kelley Doubleday, and George Hepburn; Cornelius Kelly Collection

p. 75, top, Bicyclists’ Group on Minerva Terrace, Yellowstone National Park by F. Jay Haynes, 1896, MHS H-03614

p. 75, bottom, Flag bearer crossing the Little Big Horn by Joseph Henry Sharp, ca. 1906, MHS Lot 035 M07 p. 76, top, Cromwell Dixon at Montana State Fair by N. A. Forsyth, 1911, MHS ST001.458


p. 77, top, A Gusher by Great Falls Photo View Col, ca. 1925, MHS 957-556

p. 77, bottom, Both Striking Woman by Winold Reiss, pastel, 1927, MHS X1973.04.02, gift of Louis H. Hill
TIMELINE

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p. 78, top, Automobile pulled by horse by L. A. Huffman, ca. 1920, MHS 981-836

p. 78, bottom, Fort Peck Dam Spillway Gate construction by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1937, MHS Fort Peck Dam Collection, Box 1 Folder 3/15

p. 79, top, Kenya by John W. Beauchamp, oil on canvas, ca. 1943, MHS 1995.101.01

p. 79, middle, Berkeley Pit & Butte Hill Copper Mining Operation, ca. 1955, MHS Lot 26 B1/10.05

p. 79, bottom, Bud Moore tending a campfire near Lion Pass, 1983, Bud Moore Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Mansfield Library, University of Montana, UM digital image 4579

p. 80, top, Converse high-tops by Evelyn Eagleman (Cree), 2005, MHS 2005.42.01

p. 80, bottom, Wilsall Elevators by Clyde Aspevig, MHS 1997.16.01, gift of Friends for the People of Montana