

In the time it took to form one inch of soil...

Excerpts from <http://soil.gsfc.nasa.gov>

- Terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon- 2001
- New planets that could sustain life are discovered orbiting a neighborhood star-1996
- The Berlin Wall is torn down, signaling an end to the Cold War-1989
- Viking I becomes the first spaceship to reach Mars-1976
- U.S. Armed Forces withdraw from Vietnam-1975
- Congress passes Endangered Species Act-1973
- Richard Leakey discovers hominid skull, 2.6 million years old in northern Kenya-1972
- First "Earth Day" is observed-1970
- American astronaut Neil Armstrong walks on the moon-1969
- Thurgood Marshall becomes first African American member of U.S. supreme court-1967
- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. receives the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway-1964
- President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas-1963
- Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes first human to orbit Earth-1961
- Korean War ends-1953
- Dr. Jonas Salk successfully tests polio vaccine-1952
- Mao Tse-Tung rises to power in China-1949
- The transistor is invented in Bell Laboratories in the U.S.-1948
- ENIAC, the first successful electronic digital computer, becomes operational-1946
- World War II ends-1945
- Child film actress Judy Garland stars in "The Wizard of Oz"-1939
- A Coelacanth, a fish thought extinct for 65 million years, is caught off the coast of Africa-1938
- First local conservation district is created-1937
- Drought leads to severe dust storms in "Dust Bowl" region of Great Plains-1934
- Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor, becomes first woman in U.S. cabinet-1933
- Hirohito becomes 124th Emperor of Japan-1926
- 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution gives women the right to vote-1920
- World War I ends- 1918
- Russian Revolution begins -1917
- Jeanette Rankin (R-Montana) elected first U.S. Congresswoman-1916
- Albert Einstein formulates his general theory of relativity-1915
- First Model "T" Ford rolls off assembly line-1908
- Upton Sinclair's novel, "The Jungle," leads to U.S. Pure Food and Drug Act-1906
- Orville Wright makes first successful flight in self-propelled airplane-1903
- Guglielmo Marconi tests radio transmissions between England and Newfoundland-1901
- Dr. George Washington Carver begins to develop over 300 products from the peanut and 118 from the sweet potato-1896
- German Physicist Wilhelm C. Roentgen discovers X-rays-1895
- San Francisco Examiner begins printing first newspaper comic strip-1892
- Thomas Edison invents phonograph -1877
- Alexander Graham Bell invents telephone-1875
- U.S. experiences worst grasshopper plague in its history-1874
- Congress founds first national park, Yellowstone-1872

- U.S. Civil War ends & 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishes slavery-1865
- President Abraham Lincoln delivers Gettysburg Address-1863
- Gregor Mendel begins formal experiments in genetics-1856
- American writer and naturalist Henry David Thoreau publishes "Walden"-1854
- Frederick Douglass establishes the abolitionist newspaper, "The North Star"-1847
- Samuel F.B. Morse develops code for electric telegraph system-1838
- Texas proclaims independence from Mexico-1836
- Louis Braille publishes system of writing for the blind-1829
- President James Monroe formulates doctrine of U.S. policy opposing outside interference in the Americas-1923
- Construction of Erie Canal begins-1817
- Kamehameha I becomes ruler of Hawaii and establishes Kamehameha dynasty-1810
- Ludwig van Beethoven premieres Fifth and Sixth Symphonies-1808
- Lewis and Clark begin expedition to the American Northwest-1804
- English physician Edward Jenner develops vaccination against smallpox-1796
- Eli Whitney invents cotton gin-1793
- Bill of Rights is ratified-1791
- French Revolution begins with an attack on the Bastille-1789
- The U.S. Constitution is ratified-1788
- American Revolutionary War ends-1781
- Continental Congress adopts Declaration of Independence -1776
- American Colonists throw British tea into Boston Harbor-1773
- Crispic Attucks becomes the first person and African American to die in the Revolutionary War in the "Boston Massacre"-1770
- French and Indian War ends -1763
- Thomas Jefferson is born-1743
- George Washington is born-1732
- First permanent Native American school is created in Williamsburg, Virginia-1720
- Italian musician Bartolommeo Cristofori invents the piano-1709
- Benjamin Franklin is born-1706
- First public school is established in America-1689
- Edmund Halley observes Great Comet, which is later named for him-1682
- The Dodo, a large flightless bird, becomes extinct-1681
- First book is printed in Native American language-1653
- First newspaper, Gazette de France, is published in Paris-1631
- Pilgrim leaders at Plymouth Colony establish a governing authority through Mayflower Compact-1620
- Native Americans teach colonists how to raise corn-1608
- John Smith founds first permanent English colony in North America at Jamestown, Virginia-1607
- Spain founds colony in St. Augustine, Florida-1565
- Shakespeare and Galileo are born-1564
- Juan Ponce de Leon discovers Florida-1513
- Michelangelo finishes painting Sistine Chapel ceiling-1512
- Leonardo da Vinci completes "Mona Lisa"-1505
- The Incan Empire reaches its height-1500
- The toothbrush is invented by a Chinese dentist-1498