

Individuals Impact Events



WHO

Martin Luther King, Jr.

George Washington

Harriet Tubman

Amelia Earhart



EVENT

Delivered the “I Have a Dream” speech on August 28, 1963 in Washington, D.C.

Served as the first U.S. President from April 30, 1789 – March 4, 1797

Led slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad

Departed on the morning of July 2, 1937 with her navigator, Fred Noonan, to attempt to circumnavigate the globe

IMPACT

He was a well-known Civil Rights activist who was a charismatic leader with devoted followers. His strong belief in nonviolent protest helped set the tone of the movement. Boycotts, protests, and marches were eventually effective resulting in legislation being passed against racial discrimination.

George Washington shaped the office of President. He believed that it was necessary to strike a balance between making the presidency powerful enough to function effectively while avoiding establishing a monarchy or dictatorship. He set standards for political power, military practice, and economic policy.

In addition to leading more than 300 slaves to freedom, this stubborn and defiant woman helped ensure the final defeat of slavery in the United States by aiding the Union during the American Civil War. She served as a scout, a spy, and a nurse.

In her brief life, the adventurous and ambitious Amelia Earhart became a record-breaking female aviator whose international fame improved public acceptance of aviation in general and paved the way for other women in commercial flight.

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WHO

Christopher Columbus

J. Bruce Ismay, managing director of the White Star Line, who was aboard the ship on its maiden voyage

Albert Einstein

Marie Curie



EVENT

“Discovered” the Americas on October 12, 1492

The sinking of the Titanic on April 15, 1912

First atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan – August 6, 1945

Invention of the Xray

IMPACT

Columbus’s journeys to the Americas opened the way for European countries to colonize but also exploit those lands and their peoples. This became the route for slave trade between Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Explorers and settlers brought with them diseases that had a devastating effect on Native American populations.

J. Bruce Ismay, left the Titanic in one of the last lifeboats to be launched. He admitted to the Senate inquiry committee that Captain Smith did give him one of the telegrams from other ships warning the Titanic there was ice ahead. His decision not to go down with the ship was widely criticized in the American press. He never overcame the shame of jumping into a lifeboat and retired from the White Star Line in 1913, a broken man.

Albert Einstein had a direct connection to the development of the atomic bomb. In 1939, Einstein wrote a letter to the President warning him of Germany’s resolve to develop a new weapon—an atomic bomb.

Madame Curie discovered the elements radium and polonium. Her studies resulted in the development of Xrays that helped over a million wounded soldiers during the war. However, extended exposure to radiation caused her death in 1934.
