

# Timeline

## ENVIRONMENT

New Americans believe resources are limitless **1600s**

Mason & Dixon cut the PA-MD border **1763**

Surveyors finish the VA-PA border **1784**

Jefferson first proposes exploratory mission to the Pacific **1792**

Alexander von Humboldt begins his mission of exploration through Spanish America **1799**

Jefferson sends Lewis & Clark to explore the West **1803**

Alexander von Humboldt arrives in the United States **1804**

Northeasters realize the landscape is changing forever **1830s**  
*The Hudson River School captures the beauty of the American landscape before settlement*

Theodore Roosevelt travels West to hunt bison; finds they are almost extinct **1883**

Theodore Roosevelt founds the Boone & Crockett Club to preserve habitats **1887**

John Muir co-founds the Sierra Club **1892**

## DISEASE

**1600s** The "American Plague" begins to terrify and kill

**1776** Smallpox hits American troops

**1780** Malaria & yellow fever weaken British troops in America

**1781** 30,000 slaves join British troops in Virginia; most die of disease

**1793** Refugees bring yellow fever to Philadelphia; US government almost stops functioning

**1798** Congress creates the Marine Hospital Service

**1800s** Disease moves West with the pioneers

**1878** Yellow Fever kills 25 percent of the population in Memphis

**1898** Yellow fever strikes U.S. army in Cuba during Spanish-American War



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## ENVIRONMENT

Lacey Act prohibits the illegal bird trade across state lines

Theodore Roosevelt establishes the first bird sanctuary in Florida

Theodore Roosevelt visits the Panama Canal dig site

Inland Fisheries Treaty regulates  
Great Lakes fishing  
Theodore Roosevelt leaves office

President Taft cancels scheduled World Conservation Congress

Alaska becomes an organized territory;  
last boundary change for the United States

First international protection for birds in the Migratory Bird Treaty

USSR launches Sputnik **1957**

President Kennedy challenges America to reach the moon by 1969

Rachel Carson publishes *Silent Spring* on the dangers of DDT

Crew of Apollo 8 becomes the first humans to see entire Earth at once

First Earth Day on April 22;  
20 million Americans participate

President Nixon becomes the first to talk about the environment in a State of the Union address

First UN Conference on the Environment  
Crew of Apollo 17 last to see the entire Earth

UN Earth Summit in Brazil **1992**UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen **2009**

## DISEASE

**1900** Mosquito identified as culprit in transmission of yellow fever; could now be contained

**1905** Yellow fever controlled in Panama

**1908** Rockefeller Foundation attacks hookworm in the American South

**1916** Rockefeller Foundation launches yellow fever campaign in South & Central America

**1918** A new influenza strain, H1N1, emerges; kills 50 million people

**1923** Yellow fever eradicated from most of Western Hemisphere

**1943** Army scientists discover DDT, which kills all insects

**1946** Army Malaria Control Unit becomes the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

**1977** Global eradication of smallpox

**1981** First cases of HIV/AIDS reported

**2004** Congress funds Global Disease Detection Program

**2009** H1N1 virus re-emerges