

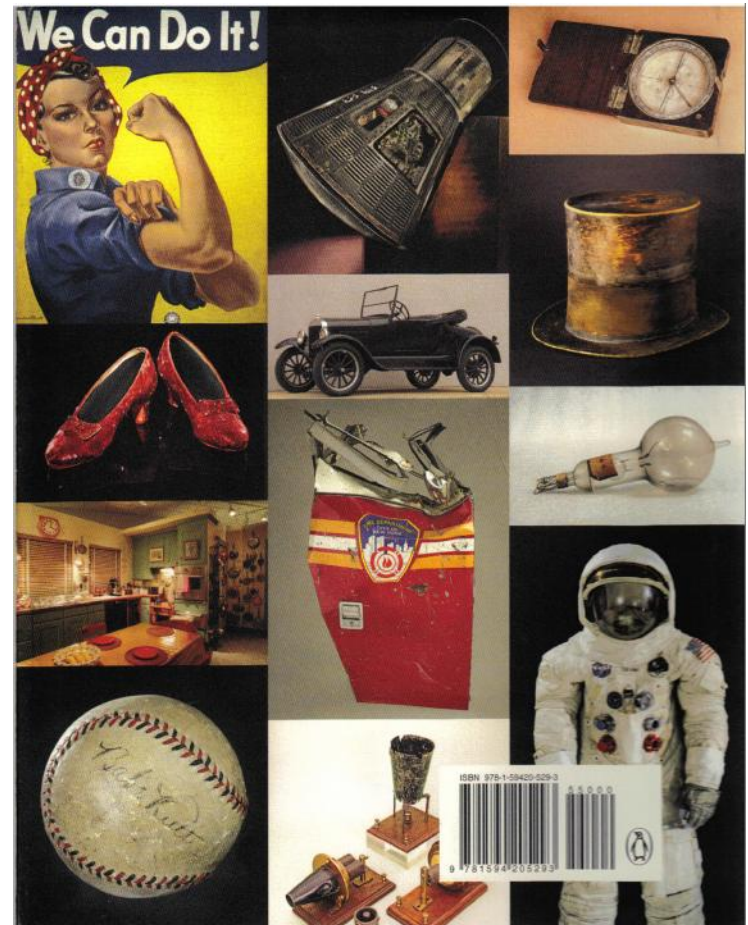


Smithsonian

History of America in 101 Objects® and Then Some

Part 1

the Atlantic



American History in a Term or Two: Mission Impossible—You Might Think

- Others did the heavy lifting. One author surmised that he had over 50,000 items and corresponding events chose from.
- Our course: A summary of what our three very smart historians and author/editor produced
 - Two** pools of artifacts plus **one** intellectual narrative
 - British Museum: Neil MacGregor’s “A History of the World **100** Objects,” 2010
 - Smithsonian Institution: Richard Kurin’s “History of America in **101** Objects,” 2013
 - **Atlantic Monthly (Nov 2013): The 50 Greatest Inventions/Breakthroughs since the Wheel,** collected and edited by James Fallows, 2013

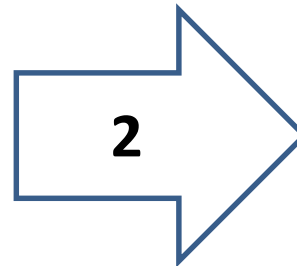


A History of the World In a 100 Objects

2 Million BC

2014

Process: Keep the Smithsonian work intact, add data from the other works

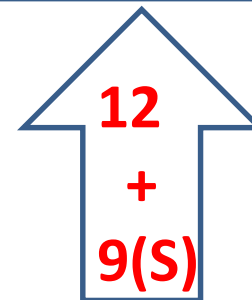


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History of America In 101 Objects

525 Million BC - 15,000 BC

2014



The 50 Greatest Inventions [products] since the Wheel



4th Millennium BC

2014

Course Structure and Presentation

- 101 objects/events with 21 additional American based Invention/Breakthrough material.
- The Objects in themselves are interesting to varying degrees, as they are symbols of underlying Stories. But, the **story/event** that they represent; that is what we will discuss.
- Presented in the **Smithsonian's 17** somewhat overlapping **Subject** chronological bands
- Some bands will be de-emphasized, as their subjects are covered in greater detail in other OLLI courses.

Thought Process Driven by Why These?

- OK, the Museums build on **what they have** and therefore what they know in greater detail. Smithsonian also sought to have at least one object from each of their Museums.
- Plus the collective thoughts and analysis of teams of multi-disciplined experts— who ask:
 - Do they effects large segments of the population?
 - Represent long term or permanent changes?
 - Could they be applied across the populations of the world?

Early Observation

- Of the Atlantic Magazine's **"50 of the Greatest Inventions/Breakthrough since the Wheel"** 21 occurred in the US after 1776.
- **12** of these are not in the Smithsonian list and will stand alone chronologically; **9** are in the list and will be blended into the narrative.
- This makes the American History narrative broader.

Presentation Approach

- The sessions will present the Bands [1 – 17] and Objects [1 – 101] in the Smithsonian assigned order. The content will identify the Objects and focus on their stories and how they impacted or represent events.
- **The Atlantic's "50 of the Greatest Inventions/Breakthrough since the Wheel" list descends in order of significance, #1 being on top. Their insertion and chronology is scattered.**
- A Smithsonian History timeline is included [1607-Now]
- Legal Notice: By the nature of the time available and immense scope of the subject this is not a comprehensive American History course.



American History Narrative Bands

- **1. Before Columbus (100 million years ago to 1492)**
- **2. New World (1492 to mid 18th Century)**
- **3. Let Freedom Ring (1760s to 1820s)**
- **4. Young Nation (Late 18th Century to 1850s)**
- **5. Sea to Shining Sea (1800 to 1850s)**
- **6. A House Divided (1850 to 1865)**



American History Narrative Bands

- **7. Manifest Destiny (1845 to early 20th Century)**
- **8. Industrial Revolution (1865 to early 20th Century)**
- **9. Modern Nation (1870s to 1929)**
- **10. Great Depression (1929-1940)**
- **11. Greatest Generation (1941 to 1945)**



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American History Narrative Bands

- **12. Cold War (1945 to 1991)**
- **13. New Frontier (1950s to 1980s)**
- **14. Civil Rights (1947 to Now)**
- **15. Pop Culture (Mid 20th Century to Now)**
- **16. Digital Age (1945 to Now)**
- **17. New Millennium (2000 to the Future)**

Let's Begin

Band 1

Before Columbus

(100 million years ago to 1492)

History Highlights

- Prehistoric

Approximate Years Ago

- 525 million years Evolutionary burst of diverse life forms in North America
- 24 to 5 Million years ago Miocene epoch, with development of mammals, woodlands and prairies in North America recognizable today.
- 40,000 to 15,000 years ago Range of **first migration** of people into North America.

Before Columbus (100 million years ago to 1492) Objects

- **1. Burgess Shale Fossils**
- **2. Bald Eagle**
- **3. Clovis Stone Points**
- **4. Mississippi Birdman Copper Plate**

1. Burgess Shale Fossils

Let's start at the very beginning!



One of the most important geological discoveries of the twentieth century opens a window into life in America half a billion years ago.

A window into the burst of diversification that gave rise to the lineage of life on Earth as we know it today.

2. Bald Eagle



A majestic indigenous bird becomes the symbol of a **Nation's vital connection to the land.**

They were soaring over America 1000's of years before humans arrived.

3. Clovis Stone Points



Hunting tools reveal an extensive human presence in North America 15,000 years ago

4. Mississippi Birdman Copper Plate



A finely embossed decoration from about **AD 1300** demonstrates the complexity and artistry of North American Native civilizations. Intelligence and skills to identify ores, refined copper, make sheets and the work the finished metal.

History Highlights [1000-1652]

- 1000 Vikings establish temporary Vinland **settlement in Newfoundland.**
- 1100s Cahokia mounds (near current Saint Louis) reach peak habitation [**Estimated the same size as London**]
- 1492 **Columbus lands** in Caribbean on the first of four voyages
- 1521 Spanish colonists found **San Juan** in Puerto Rico
- 1565 Saint Augustine, Florida, founded by Spanish, first permanent European settlement in the region
- 1598 Don Juan Onãte declares possession of land north of the Rio Grande for Spain and establishes the first **permanent Spanish settlements** in the region

History Highlights [1000-1652]

- 1607 British Virginia Company establishes **Jamestown**, the first permanent English settlement in America
- 1608 Samuel de Champlain establishes **Quebec** on the Saint Lawrence, the first French settlement in America.
- 1619 The **first Africans** arrives at Jamestown and placed in **servitude**; Virginia House of Burgesses established
- 1620 Settlers from England and Netherlands sail on the Mayflower, sign the **Mayflower Compact**, and found Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts
- 1625 The Dutch West India Company establishes **New Amsterdam** on Manhattan Island
- 1652 **First coins** minted in the English colonies at Boston; total colonial population is about 50,000

Band 2
New World
(1492 to mid 18th Century)

**We are rapidly sneaking up on
American History. It gets more
interesting**

New World (1492 to mid 18th Century) Objects

- **5. Christopher Columbus's Portrait**
- **6. Spanish Mission Hide Painting of St. Anthony**
- **7. Pocahontas's Portrait**
- **8. Plymouth Rock Fragment**
- **9. Slave Shackles**
- **10. Americae Nova Tabula (Map)**

NATIVE AMERICANS AT EUROPEAN CONTACT, 1500s-1700s



History Highlights [1654-1754]

New World (1492 to Mid 18th Century)

- 1654 **Virginia** Colonial court **legalizes slavery**
- 1664 English capture New Amsterdam and rename it New York
- 1670 Lords Proprietors begin settling Charleston
- 1680 **Pueblo-revolt** against Spanish rule
- 1681 Quaker William Penn establishes colony of Pennsylvania [“Penn’s Sylvania”]
- 1682 French explorer Robert de La Salle finds the Mississippi basin, eventually naming it **Louisiana**
- 1754 **French and Indian War** between Britain and France begins

5. Christopher Columbus' Portrait



A historical engraving depicts the explorer whose voyage to the new world paved the way for European colonization of America.

What happened to **Eric the Red**?

6. Spanish Mission Hide Painting of St. Anthony



A religious painting from a Spanish colonial Mission to the American southwest is used to convert the Indians to Christianity

7. Pocahontas's Portrait



A 1616 image of the famous native America woman promotes the Jamestown colony in Virginia

8. Plymouth Rock and Pavilion



8. Plymouth Rock Fragment



Early settlers turn their landing point into a legendary symbol of the journey to religious Freedom and liberty

But, then.....

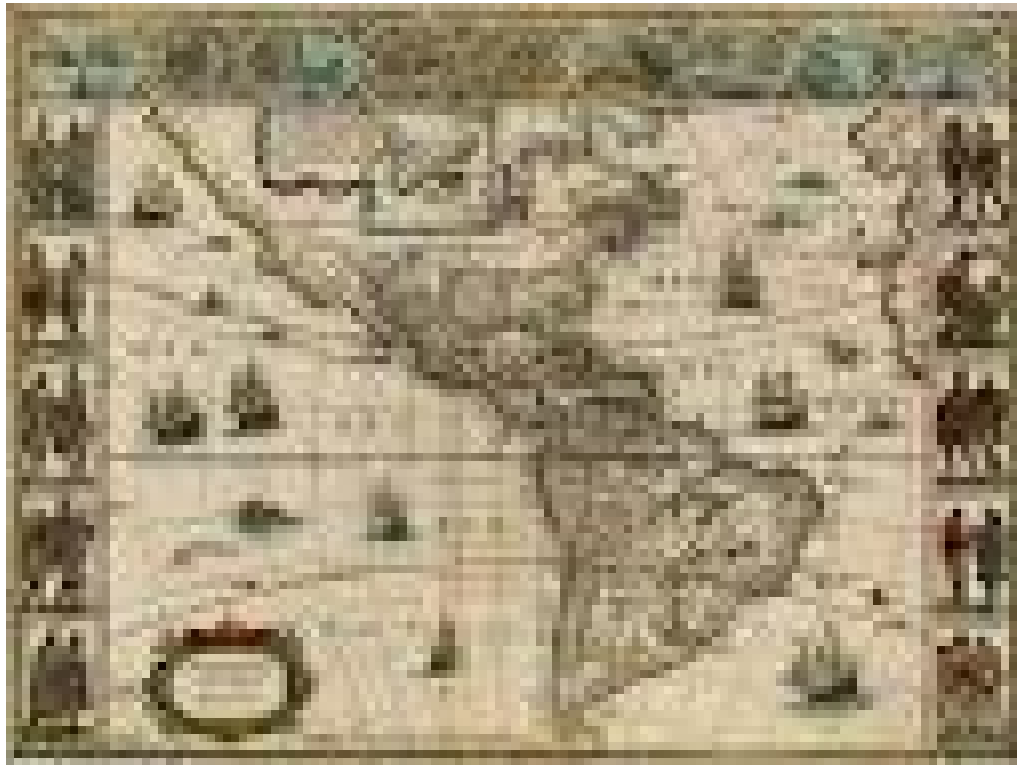
9. Slave Shackles



Not everyone was equal...

Instruments of bondage illustrate the inhumanity of a world-wide trade that enslaved millions of Africans

10. Americae Nova Tabula (Map)



An elaborately illustrated map of the Americas from about 1648 provides insight into how the Europeans see the new world

History Timeline [1750-1850]

Let Freedom Ring (1750-1820)

Young Nation (1780 – 1850)

Sea to Shining Sea (1800- 1850)

- 1764 British pass the **Stamp and Sugar Acts** 1770 Boston Massacre
- 1773 British pass Tea Act; **Boston Tea Party**
- 1774 **First Continental Congress** meets in Philadelphia to discuss negotiating tax relief and greater self-governance with British
- 1775 Continental Congress creates Continental Army, Navy, and Marines; American **Revolutionary War begins** when British troops fire on colonial militiamen at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts; Washington commissioned by the Continental Congress to lead troops

History Timeline [1750-1850]

Let Freedom Ring (1750-1820)

Young Nation (1780 – 1850)

Sea to Shining Sea (1800- 1850)

- **1776 Declaration of Independence** written in Philadelphia and printed copies circulated
- **1777 Continental Congress sends Articles of Confederation** to the states and approves first official flag; American troops winter at Valley Forge
- **1778 Benjamin Franklin secures treaty of alliance with France**
- **1783 American Revolutionary War ends with the Treaty of Paris, about 20,000 Americans dead**
- **1787 Constitutional Convention adopts the U.S. Constitution**
- **1788 Ratification of the Constitution** of the United States; George Washington elected first **president of United States**
- **1789 Constitution goes into effect**; U.S. Congress meets for first time with New York City as the temporary capital

History Timeline [1750-1850]

Let Freedom Ring (1750-1820)

Young Nation (1780 – 1850)

Sea to Shining Sea (1800- 1850)

- 1790 **Supreme Court meets for first time**; Philadelphia becomes second temporary capital; U.S. Census established with the population at almost **4 million, 95 percent rural**; District of Columbia created as permanent capital, named for George Washington
- 1791 Ratification of **Bill of Rights**; first Bank of the United States established; Whiskey Rebellion begins
- 1792 Cornerstone of the White House set; Coinage Act establishes **U.S. currency and gold standard**
- 1793 Samuel Slater establishes water-powered textile mill in Rhode Island; **first Fugitive slave Law** passes
- 1800 President John and Abigail Adams move into Presidential Mansion; Library of Congress established; Thomas Jefferson elected third president

History Timeline [1750-1850]

Let Freedom Ring (1750-1820)

Young Nation (1780 – 1850)

Sea to Shining Sea (1800- 1850)

- 1803 **Jefferson purchases Louisiana** from Napoleon's France; Supreme Court decides **Marbury v. Madison**, establishing principle of judicial review
- 1804 **Lewis and Clark** lead Corps of Discovery to explore Louisiana territory and find an overland route to the Pacific, aided by Shoshone guide, Sacagawea
- 1807 Robert Fulton sails **first steamboat** up the Hudson from New York to Albany
- 1812 **War of 1812** begins as the US declares war on Britain
- 1815 General **Andrew Jackson** defeats British at **New Orleans**
- 1816 First Seminole War as U.S. forces under Jackson battle Indian tribes in Spanish Florida and border areas

History Timeline [1750-1850]

Let Freedom Ring (1750-1820)

Young Nation (1780 – 1850)

Sea to Shining Sea (1800- 1850)

- 1814 Burning of Washington; Francis Scott Key writes "**Star-Spangled Banner**" in Baltimore; treaty to end the War of 1812 signed, about 20,000 American died
- 1819 Spain cedes Florida to the United States
- 1830 President Jackson signs **Indian Removal Act**; Joseph Smith founds the Church of Latter-day Saints and promulgates The Book of Mormon
- 1835 Second Seminole War begins as United States fights against Native tribes in Florida
- 1836 **Texas declare independence** from Mexico; defeat of Texans at Alamo mission by Mexican forces

History Timeline [1750-1850]

Let Freedom Ring (1750-1820)

Young Nation (1780 – 1850)

Sea to Shining Sea (1800- 1850)

- **1837** Financial markets collapse as Panic of 1837 begins a six-year economic depression
- **1839** Louis-Jacques-Mande Daguerre invents the Daguerreotype photograph
- **1842** Massachusetts Supreme Court upholds **rights of workers to organize** in Commonwealth v. Hunt
- **1845** **United States annexes the Republic of Texas** and it becomes a state; term "**Manifest Destiny**" coined; Irish potato famine leads more than 1 million immigrants to the United States

History Timeline [1750-1850]

Let Freedom Ring (1750 -1820)

Young Nation (1780 - 1850)

Sea to Shining Sea (1800 - 1850)

- 1846 **Mexican-American War** begins; Smithsonian institution established by act of Congress
- 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends war with Mexico with United States gaining territory in the west; discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill, California, sets off "Gold Rush; Harriet Tubman escapes slavery and begins guiding others to freedom; Seneca Falls NY Convention [Women's vote]
- 1850 U.S. population about **23 million, 85 percent rural**; Compromise of 1850 bill passes, including the **Fugitive Slave Law**

Band 3
Let Freedom Ring
(1760s to 1820s)

Let Freedom Ring (1760s to 1820s)

- **11. Declaration of Independence**
- **12. George Washington's Uniform and Sword**
- **13. Benjamin Franklin's Walking Stick**
- **14. Gilbert Stuart's Lansdowne Portrait of George Washington**
- **15. Star-Spangled Banner**
- **16. Thomas Jefferson's Bible**



11. Declaration of Independence



In Congress July 4th 1776

A proclamation of a new nation is drafted on a portable desk in 1776 and decades later is copied for preservation and distribution



Pretty flamboyant signature for an Insurance man

12. George Washington's Uniform and Sword



The military regalia of the first commander of America's military reflects his **leadership and vision** for the new nation.

Washington came into office with no staff, no funds, no body of Laws, 4 cabinet secretaries, Congress out of session and there was a country to run.

Current Political Controversy Over the President's Powers Is not New

- Although the framers gave the president little authority, George Washington knew that **his actions** would set **precedents** for generations of future leaders.
- To ensure the ability to defend the nation, he simply **ignored the Constitution** when he thought it necessary.
- In a revealing new look at the birth of American government, "*Mr. President*" by Harlow Giles Unger describes Washington's presidency and actions in a time of **continual crisis**, as internal rebellion and attacks by foreign enemies threatened to destroy this new nation.
- Constantly weighing preservation of the Union against preservation of individual liberties and states' rights, **Washington assumed more power** with each crisis.
- In a series of brilliant but unconstitutional maneuvers he forced Congress to cede control of the four pillars of executive power: War, Finance, Foreign Affairs, and Law Enforcement.

Laws and Orders

- **In our history Congress has enacted over 20,000 laws – covering virtually everything**
- **Presidents from Washington to Obama have issued over 13,565 executive orders**
 - **Ranging from a simple honoring of a day or person to directing the racial integration of the US Armed Forces**
 - **Roosevelt signed off on #5781- #9509, 3728 total**
 - **President Obama has issued #13,489 -13,656, 167 over six years**

From the PBS Series the Roosevelts “Governance”

- **Thomas Jefferson believed that the President and the Congress could only do what the Constitution explicitly enumerated.**
- **Theodor Roosevelt believed that the President and Congress could do anything unless it was explicitly prohibited by the Constitution.**

13. Benjamin Franklin's Walking Stick



Gift from the Dowager
Duchess of Deux – Points
with the Liberty Hat top.

Bequeathed by Franklin
to Washington

- A staff given to a beloved and respected scientist, philosopher – statesman makes a powerful statement about American democracy.
- After signing the Declaration of Independence, Franklin went to France as US Commissioner.
- Through his intelligence and erudition he befriended many powerful French Nobles and negotiated a treaty of Alliance that helped secure our Independence. This treaty cause the British to declare war on France.
- Franklin wore a very distinct hat in France, one of his Admirers had a walking stick made with a gold top in the shape of that “Liberty” hat.

14. Gilbert Stuart's Lansdowne Portrait of George Washington



The great portraitist paint the iconic image of the first President and father of his country

Here, Washington Declines a Third Term as President

- The Lansdowne portrait is an iconic oil-on-canvas portrait of George Washington.
- The portrait was commissioned in April 1796 by Senator William Bingham of Pennsylvania—one of the wealthiest men in the U.S. at the time—and his wife, Anne.
- The portrait measures 8 X 5 feet and was given as a gift of appreciation to British Prime Minister, born **William Petty-FitzMaurice**; the second Earl of Shelburne and subsequently the first Marquis of Lansdowne.
- Petty-FitzMaurice was an **American sympathizer** who supported independence of the colonies in Parliament. He succeeded in securing peace with America during his term as **Prime Minister** of Great Britain

15. Star-Spangled Banner

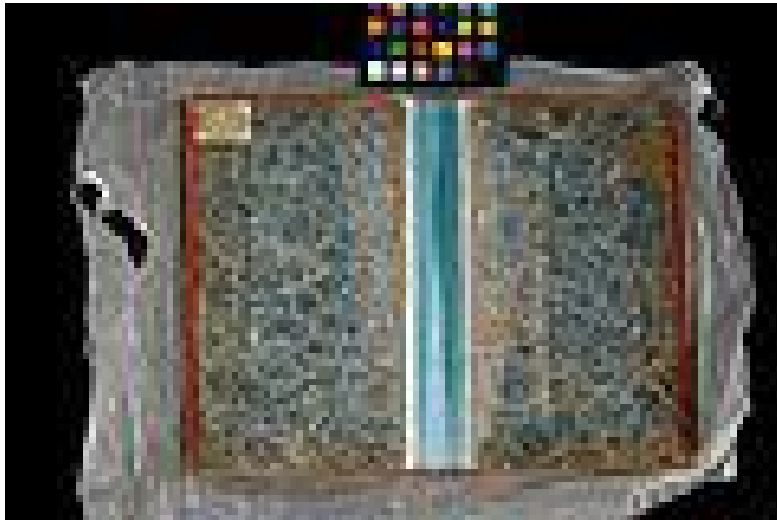


**A flag sewn in Baltimore
inspires the national Anthem
and becomes a treasured icon.**

**200th anniversary in
September 2014.**

**Francis Scott Key drafts a poem
while sitting in Baltimore Harbor
during the British bombardment
of Fort MCHenry. In the dawn
mist after the bombardment,
our flag still flies over the fort.**

16. Thomas Jefferson's Bible



A unique work that express the still controversial beliefs of the President and patriot who defined religious liberty for the nation.

[\\$38 from the Smithsonian online store](#)

- The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth, often referred to as the "Jefferson Bible." His distillation of what he considered the original moral doctrines of Jesus. He went through **four translations of gospels – English, French, Latin and Greek** – and **took the passages** he considered revealed Jesus' true philosophy.
- He added pages, hand-written notes , commentary, Gospel extracts in four languages and additional passages on the extent of his beliefs in this Anglican Bible.