

## Wyoming History Timeline

1743	French Canadians Francois and Louis Joseph de la Verendrye become the first known whites to enter present-day Wyoming.
1803	Most of Wyoming, as part of the Louisiana Purchase, becomes United States territory.
1807	John Coulter becomes the first known person to explore the Yellowstone Park region.
1812	Robert Stuart of the Pacific Fur Company discovers South Pass, a pass through the Rocky Mountains.
1822	William Henry Ashley and Andrew Henry organize the Rocky Mountain Fur Company.
1824	Jedediah Smith leads a party through South Pass and into the Green River Basin.
1825	William Henry Ashley of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company holds the first annual rendezvous for the fur trappers.
1834	William Sublette and Robert Campbell build Wyoming's first permanent white settlement, Fort William (later names Fort Laramie).
1840	The last Rocky Mountain fur trapper's rendezvous is held.
1842-1843	Lieutenant John Charles Fremont, with Kit Carson as a guide, surveys Wyoming.
1842-1843	Jim Bridger opens the Fort Bridger trading post.
1847	Brigham Young leads the Mormon followers through Wyoming along the Mormon Trail to Utah.
1849	California-bound gold seekers begin traveling through Wyoming on the California Trail.
1849	The U.S. Army buys Fort Laramie.
1851	In a council at Fort Laramie, the Indians agree not to bother travelers on the Oregon Trail.
1852	Wyoming's first school is established at Fort Laramie.
1854	In the Gratten Massacre, Lt. John Gratten and 29 soldiers are killed in a battle with Indians east of Fort Laramie.
1858	Fort Bridger becomes a military fort.
1860	The Pony Express route runs through Wyoming.
1864	Jim Bridger establishes the Bridger Trail from Casper across the Bighorn Basin.
1864	John Bozeman establishes the Bozeman Trail through the Powder River Basin into Montana.
1866	Fort Phil Kearny and Fort Reno are established to protect travelers along the Bozeman Trail.
1866	Chiefs Red Cloud and Crazy Horse ambush and kill Lt. Colonel William Fetterman and 81 soldiers in the Fetterman Fight.
1867	Cheyenne's town site was surveyed by General Grenville Dodge, chief engineer of the Union Pacific Railroad.
1867	Fort D.A. Russell was built in Cheyenne.

1867	In the Wagon Box Fight, timber cutters fend off Sioux and Cheyenne warriors near Fort Phil Kearney.
1868	The Eastern Shoshoni Indians are assigned to the Wind River Reservation.
1868	In the Treaty of Fort Laramie, the Sioux agree not to attack the builders of the Transcontinental Railroad.
1869	The Union Pacific Railroad is completed through Wyoming.
1869	Congress establishes the Wyoming Territory.
1869	John A. Campbell, Wyoming's first territorial governor, signs a bill making Wyoming the first state to grant women the right to vote.
1870	Esther Hobart Morris is appointed Justice of the Peace in South Pass City, becoming the nation's first female judge.
1872	Congress establishes Yellowstone National Park as the nation's first national park.
1874	Gold is discovered in the Black Hills, starting a gold rush that causes problems in the Powder River Basin.
1876	General MacKenzie defeats Chief Dull Knife in the last major battle of Wyoming's Indian wars.
1877	The Arapahoe Indians are placed on the Wind River Reservation with the Shoshoni Indians.
1883	Wyoming's first oil well is drilled.
1886	Laramie County Library is opened and Wyoming is the first state to have a county public library system.
1890	Wyoming becomes the 44 <sup>th</sup> state of the United States.
1892	Cattlemen kill two suspected rustlers in what becomes known as the Johnson County War.
1902	Shoshone, the first U.S. national forest, is founded in Wyoming.
1903	Tom Horn is held in the Laramie County Jail for 21 months until his execution, with a brief period of freedom when he escaped. He is hanged in November.
1906	Devil's Tower becomes the nation's first national monument.
1915	The first transcontinental phone line through Wyoming is completed on January 1. The first public call from New York to San Francisco is placed on January 25.
1917-1918	About 12,000 Wyomingites help win World War I.
1924-1939	Wyoming ranchers suffer during a long depression.
1924	The First National Bank of Cheyenne fails, one of 25 in the state. The reasons cited are the low prices of cattle, crops, land, and high taxation.
1925	Wyoming elects the country's first woman governor. Nellie Tayloe Ross is elected to complete the term of her husband, who died in office.
1930	The state's first radio, KDFN, begins broadcasting in Casper.
1930	Fort D.A. Russell becomes Fort Francis E. Warren in honor of Senator Francis E. Warren. He was a longtime Wyoming senator, who worked for the preservation of the military.
1941-1945	After the United States enters World War II, about 33,000 Wyoming men and women serve their country.

1947	Trona mining begins around Green River, which becomes the “Trona Capital of the World”.
1951	Uranium is discovered in Wyoming.
1954	The state’s first television station, KFBC, begins broadcasting in Cheyenne.
1956	First television program broadcast nationally from Wyoming is the <i>Arthur Godfrey Show</i> from Cheyenne Frontier Days.
1960	Warren Air Force Base becomes the nation’s first guided missile base.
1988	Wyoming becomes the country’s top coal producer.
1988	Forest fires burn about one-third of Yellowstone National Park.
1990	Wyoming’s 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday! President George Bush attends a centennial celebration at the State Capitol building in Cheyenne.
1992	A natural gas pipeline linking Wyoming and California opens.
1995	Jim Geringer takes office as Wyoming governor.
2000	Wyoming Senator Dick Cheney was elected Vice President of the United States.