

Chronological Event Strips

Era 1: Three Worlds Meet (Beginnings to 1629)

Columbus introduces goats, sheep, pigs, hens, fruit, and old world vegetable seeds.

Era 2: Colonization and Settlement (1585-1763)

English colonists plant grain, potatoes, pumpkins, and melons.

Indians teach Jamestown settlers how to grow corn.

Era 3: Revolution and the New Nation (1754-1820s)

U.S. Ambassador Ben Franklin sends soybean seeds back from France.

George Washington breeds the first mules in the U.S.

Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin. Thomas Jefferson invented the moldboard plow.

Whiskey Rebellion: Western farmers revolt against a grain tax.

Era 4: Expansion and Reform (1801-1861)

Louisiana Purchase, a port for American farmers.

Cotton replaces tobacco as the main crop in the south.

Beginning of the “Industrial Revolution.”

U.S. canning industry started.

Erie Canal finished.

Cyrus McCormick invented the grain reaper.

John Deere manufactures steel plow.

Sir John Laws founded the commercial fertilizer industry by developing a process for making superphosphate fertilizer.

Rembert & Prescott developed a mechanical cotton picking machine.

Mason jars, used for home canning.

Era 5: Civil War and Reconstruction (1850-1877)

President Lincoln creates the first Department of Agriculture and the Morrill Land Grant College Act.

Homestead Act gives 160 acres to settlers who will farm the land for five years.

Pasteurization invented.

Barbed wire invented.

Transcontinental railroad completed.

Era 6: The Development of the Industrial United States (1870-1900)

Refrigerator railroad car patented.

Era 7: The Emergence of Modern America (1890-1930)

The gasoline tractor was built by John Forelich.