Marshall's World

Directions: Find and record the dates for these events on your timetable column.

Column #1: Technology
- first radio transmission
- first airplane
- first Model-T car
- first trans-Atlantic flight
- first machine gun
- first armored tank
- first amphibious vehicle
- first nuclear bomb
- first paratroopers used in war
- first satellite to orbit earth

Column #3: European Events
- Great War (WWI) begins
- Great War ends
- Hitler becomes leader of Germany
- Hitler invades Poland
- France falls
- Allies land in France (D-Day)
- Germans surrender (V-E Day)
- European Recovery Plan
- NATO created
- Cold War begins (approximately)

Column #2: Asian Events
- Chinese Boxer Rebellion
- U.S. defeats rebels in the Philippines
- Japan invades China
- U.S. cuts off Japanese oil supplies
- Japan attacks Pearl Harbor
- Hiroshima and Nagasaki destroyed
- Japan surrenders (V-J Day)
- China adopts a communist government
- North Korea invades South Korea

Column #4: U.S. Events
- Spanish-American War
- U.S. enters WW I
- stock market crash
- F.D.R.'s New Deal (CCC created)
- first peacetime draft
- U.S. enters WW II
- Truman drops atomic bombs on Japan
- WW II ends
- Marshall Plan
- Rise of McCarthyism
- Truce between North and South Korea
Column #5: George Marshall

- 1880 Born in Uniontown, PA.
- 1902
  - Joined the Army
  - Married Lily Coles
  - Posted to the Philippines
- 1917-18 Served in France during World War I
- 1924-27 Commanded troops stationed in China
- 1936-38 Oversaw CCC camps
- 1939-45 Sworn in as Chief of Staff
- 1939-40 Urged President Roosevelt to prepare for war
- December 7, 1941: Alerted President about Pearl Harbor attack
- 1945-46 Sent on a special mission to China
- 1947-48 Initiated European Recovery Program (Marshall Plan)
- 1950-51 Served as Secretary of Defense during the Korean crisis
- 1953 Received the Nobel Peace Prize for the Marshall Plan
- 1959 Died, October 16, at Walter Reed Army Hospital, Washington, D.C.
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Changes in Science and Technology 1880 - 1959

The end of the nineteenth century witnessed an explosion of discoveries and inventions that changed the way all of us live and work. The age begins just after Thomas Edison’s achievements of the 1870’s: improvements in telegraphs and telephones, and the invention of the phonograph (1877) and the electric light bulb (1879). By the early twentieth century, the widespread use of electricity brought electric-powered lights and appliances into homes and workplaces. Electricity also made possible new advances in communications and entertainment. The first radio transmission took place in 1901. Millions of Americans listened to radios by the 1920’s, and millions enjoyed the new motion pictures and towards the end of Marshall’s life, television.

This time in history also saw many changes in transportation. In the 1880’s, people living in Richmond, Virginia were the first in the world to travel around town on electric-railed streetcars (1887). By the 1890’s, Henry Ford had developed the first gas-powered automobile; the first factory-made Model T came on the market by 1908. Soon cars and trucks became a part of American life.

The military also found use for the new technologies. Wartime needs created the first armored tank (1915) which could resist the attacks of increasingly lethal new weapons, including the submachine gun (1916). Later came the first jeep (1940), and the first amphibious vehicle capable of traveling both on land and water (1944).

Changes also happened in the air. The Wright brothers launched the first successful airplane flight in 1903. The early planes couldn’t go far, but soon they could. In 1927, Charles Lindbergh became the first man to successfully fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. Airline passenger service became common. So did the use of airplanes in war. The first war-time airplanes (1915) were mostly used for spying. Later, more advanced planes could drop paratroopers (1940) and bombs, including the newly developed nuclear bomb (1945).

By 1944, the U.S. military was also using high-speed jets. The race to conquer the air continued: in 1957, the Soviets launched a rocket and sent into orbit the very first satellite the world had ever seen. Its name was Sputnik, which meant traveling companion. The next year, the Americans sent their own satellite into space. What a long way the world had come in less than eighty years!
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EVENTS IN EAST ASIA, 1880 - 1959

As Europe and the United States became more powerful, they developed interest in expanding their trade and influence to East Asian countries. By the late 1800’s Western nations had set up trading relationships with China. After the Chinese Boxer Rebellion (1900), these nations, including the U.S., sent troops to protect their people and maintain order.

In East Asia and the South Pacific there were also many islands under the control of Spain. After the United States defeated Spain in a 1898 war related to Cuba, many of these colonies came under the new control of the United States. Among them were the Philippine Islands. The Filipinos had hoped to become free of any foreign power and fought against American troops stationed there, but the U.S. military defeated them by 1902. U.S. troops occupied the Islands for the next forty years.

During this same time, the island of Japan was building its own industrial and trade base. After centuries of isolation, it was quickly rising as an economic power in the region. In 1931, Japanese troops invaded part of mainland China, which had many natural resources Japan needed. Despite warnings from the United States, Japan continued to seize more Asian territory. In 1941, the United States refused to sell Japan the oil it needed to run its industries unless Japan gave up its territories. Japan refused and attacked the United States in a surprise bombing of Hawaii’s Pearl Harbor in December of that year. This act brought both countries into World War II. After four fierce years of fighting in the Pacific, the United States dropped two atomic bombs on two Japanese cities. Japan surrendered a few days later in early August 1945.

Several important things happened in East Asia after World War II. First, the United States lost influence in China. China adopted a communist government friendly with the Soviet Union in 1949. Second, the country of Korea, previously occupied by Japan, was divided between the Soviet Union and the United States after the war. When North Korean troops invaded South Korea in 1950, President Truman was worried this small war might grow into a test of who was more powerful: the United States or the Soviet Union. American, South Korean, and some United Nation’s forces fought back. After early success, these troops were attacked by North Korea’s neighbor, China, and the fighting did not go well. After several years, the fighting nations signed a truce in 1953, leaving Korea divided to this very day.
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EVENTS IN EUROPE, 1880 - 1959

This time period in Europe was filled with war. The Great War began in 1914 between two groups of European nations. On one side were the Central Powers, nations in central Europe including Germany. On the other side were the Allied nations, which included Great Britain and France and Russia. This war began after years of bickering between the nations and restlessness among their peoples. So, when a Central Powers prince was assassinated in Serbia in 1914, events quickly led into full scale war. The United States was also drawn into the war because newly developed German submarines (U-boats) continued to sink American ships crossing the Atlantic Ocean.

Adolf Hitler tapped into German anger to build Nazi Germany. Combining forces with Italian dictator, Mussolini, Hitler pushed his army into territories beyond Germany.

World War II broke out when the Nazis invaded Poland in September 1939. By the summer of 1940, the Nazis had even defeated France. For awhile, only Great Britain and the Soviet Union were still fighting against Hitler, but in December 1941, the United States also joined the Allied nations. Three years later, in June 1944, Allied troops landed on the coast of France and pushed the Nazi army back. Germany surrendered in the spring of 1945.

The Great War (World War I) lasted four years. By the time American soldiers landed in France in 1917, millions of Europeans had already been killed, partly because weapons had gotten more deadly. In this new kind of war, soldiers fought from trenches dug across France. After much struggle, the Allies pushed the Germans back and defeated the Central Powers.

The Versailles peace treaty at the end of the Great War re-drew the map of Europe. Despite President Woodrow Wilson's warnings, the treaty also harshly punished Germany for the war. In 1933, The German defeat brought many changes to Europe. A new power struggle developed between the United States and the Soviet Union. In Eastern Europe, many nations aligned themselves with the nearby Soviet Union. In Western Europe, nations developed democratic governments, thanks in great part to economic help from the United States between 1948-1951. As tensions between the two superpowers increased, some Western nations signed a mutual defense agreement called NATO in 1949. Soon the Soviets and their countries signed their own pact. This "Cold War" would continue for more than 40 years.
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EVENTS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1880 - 1959

The United States enjoyed a great age of expansion and power during these years. Aided by great strides in technology, the U.S. industrial base was expanding rapidly at the close of the 19th century. Soon the nation found itself actively involved in world-wide trade and in world-wide conflicts. First came victory in the Spanish-American war (1898). Then came a much longer and bloodier involvement in the Great War of Europe (WW I), which America entered in 1917.

Following the end of World War I in 1918, the United States turned its attention back home. The economic prosperity of the Roaring Twenties, however, came to a sudden end with the stock market crash in 1929. The Depression of the 1930's brought hardship to many Americans. In response to this crisis, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed a New Deal—a number of new government plans providing citizen relief, government reform, and economic recovery. Among the measures F.D.R. proposed in 1933 was the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) which employed 300,000 young men in work camps throughout the nation; the Army oversaw its direction.

The outbreak of a new war in Europe in 1939 quickly brought the United States into increased war trade with Great Britain and France. Although Americans wanted neutrality, events in Europe looked grim. After France had fallen to the Nazis in 1940, the United States called up the first peacetime draft in American history. A year later, the nation entered the war after Japanese airplanes attacked a U.S. Navy base in Hawaii at Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941). Millions of Americans fought with Allied forces both in Europe and in the Pacific for the next four years. War in Europe ended in the spring of 1945. War in the Pacific continued until President Truman dropped two atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

The end of World War II did not end U.S. involvement in global issues. First, the United States helped Europe recover from the war by initiating the Marshall Plan in 1948. The United States also found itself in increasing tension with the other new nuclear superpower, the Soviet Union. In early 1950, America became caught up in the hate-mongering of Senator Joseph McCarthy who accused many innocent citizens of being communist spies. That same year, the U.S. also found itself involved in an armed conflict in Korea which could have easily escalated into another big war.