

# Timeline



- 1492** Christopher Columbus arrives in the New World, landing in the Bahamas

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- 1513** Ponce de Leon arrives in Florida

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- 1565** First permanent Spanish settlement is established in St. Augustine, Fla.

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- 1820** Mexico, which includes settlements in California, Arizona, Texas, Colorado and New Mexico, gains independence from Spain. American settlers begin moving into Mexican territories

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- 1822** Joseph Marion Hernandez becomes first Hispanic member of Congress, serving six months as a nonvoting delegate from Florida

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- 1845** Texas is annexed by the United States

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- 1846** Mexican-American War begins

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- 1848** Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo establishes Rio Grande River as the U.S.-Mexico border, ceding Texas, California, Arizona, New Mexico and parts of Colorado, Nevada and Utah. About 75,000 Mexicans choose to remain in the U.S. as citizens

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- 1862** Homestead Act allows squatters in the West to claim vacant land—land often owned by Mexican-Americans

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- 1868** Fourteenth Amendment declares all people born in the United States to be U.S. citizens

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- 1876** Romualdo Pacheco of California becomes first Hispanic U.S. representative

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- 1898** In Treaty of Paris, Spain surrenders control of Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines and Guam to the United States

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- 1910** Mexican Revolution begins; hundreds of thousands of Mexicans flee to the United States

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- 1912** Mexican ambassador formally protests the mistreatment of Mexican-Americans in the southwestern United States, citing lynchings and murders

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- 1917** Ezequiel Cabeza de Baca of New Mexico becomes first Hispanic U.S. governor

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- 1917** Jones Act extends U.S. citizenship to all Puerto Ricans

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- 1917** During World War I, “temporary” Mexican farm workers, railroad laborers and miners enter the United States to work

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- 1924** Congress creates the U.S. Immigration Service Border Patrol

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- 1928** Octaviano Larrazolo of New Mexico becomes first Hispanic U.S. senator

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- 1929** During the Great Depression, more than 400,000 Mexicans and Mexican-Americans are deported or otherwise forced to return to Mexico

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- 1942** Under the Bracero Program (which would run through 1964), the U.S. brings in seasonal Mexican agricultural laborers to ease shortages during World War II

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- 1950** Puerto Rico becomes a U.S. commonwealth

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- 1954** In *Hernandez v. Texas*, Supreme Court rules that all racial groups are guaranteed equal protection under the 14th Amendment

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- 1954** Over the next five years, Operation Wetback results in the deportation of about 3.8 million undocumented Mexicans

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- 1955** KCOR in San Antonio (now KWEX) becomes first Spanish-language TV station in United States

- 1962** César Chávez and Dolores Huerta found National Farm Workers Association, forerunner of United Farm Workers of America

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- 1965** Mexico and the United States allow corporations to operate assembly plants on their shared border to provide jobs for Mexicans displaced when Bracero Program ends

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- 1966** Over the next eight years, about 250,000 Cubans fleeing the Castro regime are airlifted to the United States

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- 1968** Congress passes resolution that requests President to annually issue a proclamation declaring the week including Sept. 15 and 16 as National Hispanic Heritage Week

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- 1973** Roberto Clemente becomes first Hispanic inducted into Baseball Hall of Fame

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- 1973** U.S. government officially adopts the term Hispanic

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- 1974** Equal Educational Opportunity Act allows for bilingual education

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- 1975** Voting Rights Act of 1975 makes bilingual ballots a requirement in certain areas

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- 1980** Mariel Boatlift brings about 125,000 Cuban refugees to the United States

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- 1986** Immigration Reform and Control Act creates process for undocumented immigrants to gain legal status and grants citizenship to about 3 million people in the country illegally

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- 1988** Secretary of Education Lauro Cavazos becomes first Hispanic Cabinet member

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- 1988** Congress passes resolution that authorizes President to proclaim the 31 days from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month

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- 1989** Ileana Ros-Lehtinen becomes first Hispanic woman elected to Congress

- 1990** Antonia Novello becomes first Hispanic and first woman Surgeon General

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- 1994** North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) goes into effect, eliminating all tariffs between Mexico and the United States

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- 1997** U.S. government officially adopts the term Latino

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- 1999** U.S. creates “people-to-people” licenses, lifting some restrictions on travel to Cuba

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- 2001** Hispanics officially pass Blacks to become the nation’s largest minority group

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- 2003** Arturo Moreno becomes the first Hispanic owner of a major U.S. sports franchise, buying the Anaheim Angels baseball team

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- 2009** Sonia Sotomayor becomes first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice

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- 2009** Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis becomes first Hispanic woman Cabinet member

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- 2010** Susana Martinez of New Mexico becomes first Hispanic woman governor

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- 2012** Supreme Court strikes down provisions of Arizona law that require immigrants to carry registration documents at all times and that authorize police to arrest undocumented immigrants without a warrant, but still allows immigration checks during law-enforcement stops

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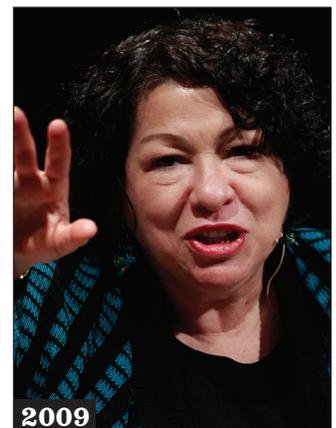
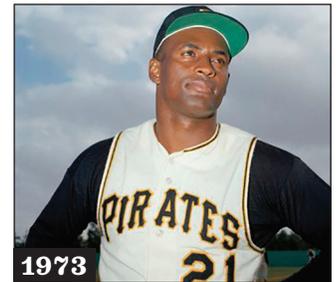
- 2012** Hispanics make up 10 percent of the electorate for the first time, helping to reelect President Obama

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- 2013** U.S. Senate passes immigration-reform bill that, among other things, establishes pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, but House refuses to bring the bill to its floor

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- 2015** Juan Felipe Herrera named the United States’s first Latino Poet Laureate



Sources: Britannica.com, Gale, infoplease.com, PBS, The New CEOs, Texas State Historical Museum