

August 10, 1821

Missouri Becomes a State

The state of Missouri has played an important role in United States history. At the time the United States was expanding from the east coast westward, many of the pioneers went to Missouri to join others who were headed west. The Santa Fe Trail went from Independence, Missouri, to the southwest part of the country, and the Oregon Trail left from Independence, Missouri, and traveled to the Pacific Northwest. When the settlers went west, one of the types of work they took part in was trapping. Furs were brought back to Missouri, and St. Louis became known for the amount of furs traded there. The loyalties of the citizens of Missouri were divided between the Union and the Confederacy during the Civil War, as in so many states. But, Missouri stayed in the Union, hoping to stay neutral if war came. Later, a vote was taken in the legislature, and those present voted to join the Confederacy, but there were not enough members there for the session to be legal. Missouri was considered a border state during the war and did not secede from the Union. Some famous people from Missouri include Mark Twain, George Washington Carver, Yogi Berra, General John J. Pershing, General Omar N. Bradley, Eugene Field, Harry S. Truman, Bess Truman, Julia Grant, and J.C. Penney.

Look at the map of Missouri below. Label the capital of Missouri. Locate the cities of St. Louis, Springfield, Joplin, Harrisonville, Independence, Chillicothe, Macon, Hannibal, Columbia, Fredericktown, and New Madrid, and label them on the map. Now label the Ozark Mountains and the St. Francois Mountains, along with Taum Sauk Mountain, Wildcat Mountain, Buford Mountain and Bell Mountain. Also, locate the Mississippi River, Missouri River, Current River, James River, Gasconade River, Lake of the Ozarks, Bull Shoals Lake, Pomme de Terre Lake, and Stockton Lake, and label them. Lastly, label the states or bodies of water that border Missouri. When you have finished, move on to the timeline of Missouri history on the next page and the research prompts that follow.



Timeline of Missouri History

1764

1789

1800

1804

1808

1816

1821

1826

1829

1835

1841

1847

1849

1860

1864

1874

1904

1931

1965

1993

1. The "Missouri Gazette," Missouri's first newspaper, is founded
2. The first trip of the Pony Express starts from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California
3. The Missouri State Library is established
4. The Gateway Arch is completed
5. The first sheet lead and cannonballs are manufactured in Missouri by Moses Austin
6. The University of Missouri is the first state university west of the Mississippi River to open
7. St. Louis hosts the World's Fair
8. Jefferson City is set to be Missouri's permanent capital
9. St. Louis is connected to the East coast by telegraph
10. The Eads Bridge, which crosses the Mississippi River, opens in St. Louis
11. St. Louis is founded
12. George Washington Carver is born
13. The first circuit court for mid-Missouri opens at Cole's Fort
14. Lake of the Ozarks is formed when Bagnell Dam is completed
15. The Lewis and Clark expedition leaves from St. Louis
16. Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) is born
17. City of New Madrid is founded
18. The Great Flood ravages parts of Missouri and the midwestern part of the country
19. A second cholera epidemic hits St. Louis, killing over 4,000 people
20. Missouri is admitted to the Union as the 24th state

Timeline of Missouri History Answer Key

St. Louis is founded	1764	
	1789	City of New Madrid is founded
The first sheet lead and cannonballs are manufactured in Missouri by Moses Austin	1800	
	1804	The Lewis and Clark expedition leaves from St. Louis
The "Missouri Gazette," Missouri's first newspaper, is founded	1808	
	1816	The first circuit court for mid-Missouri opens at Cole's Fort
Missouri is admitted to the Union as the 24th state	1821	
	1826	Jefferson City is set to be Missouri's permanent capital
The Missouri State Library is established	1829	
	1835	Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) is born
The University of Missouri is the first state university west of the Mississippi River to open	1841	
	1847	St. Louis is connected to the East coast by telegraph
A second cholera epidemic hits St. Louis, killing over 4,000 people	1849	
	1860	The first trip of the Pony Express starts from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California
George Washington Carver is born	1864	
	1874	The Eads Bridge, which crosses the Mississippi River, opens in St. Louis
St. Louis hosts the World's Fair	1904	
	1931	Lake of the Ozarks is formed when Bagnell Dam is completed
The Gateway Arch is completed	1965	
	1993	The Great Flood ravages parts of Missouri and the midwestern part of the country