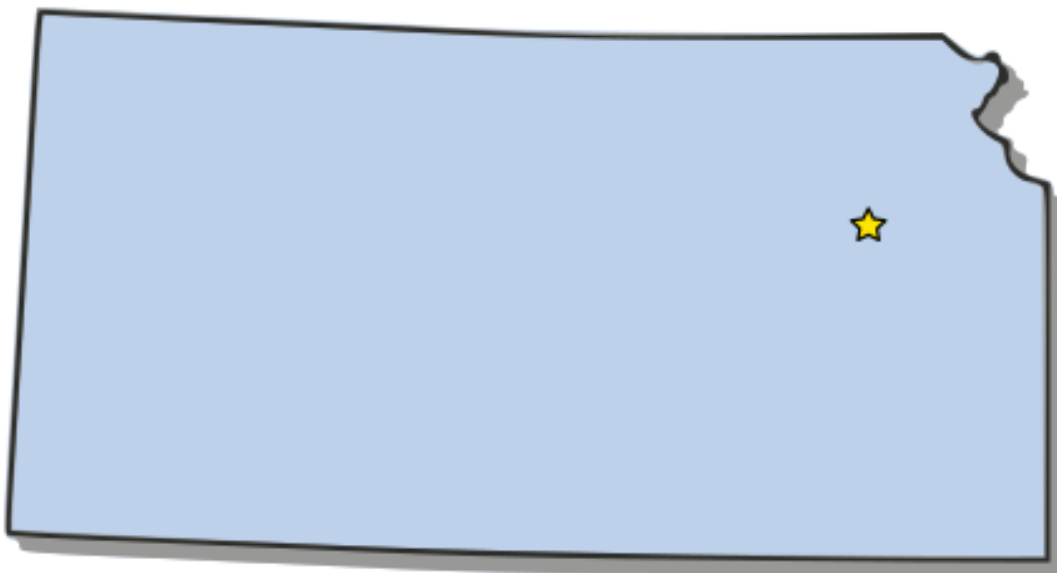


January 29, 1861

Kansas Becomes a State

Kansas is nicknamed the *Wheat State* and the *Breadbasket of America* because it is the leading state for production of wheat. However, Kansas is also a leading manufacturing state and producer of oil and natural gas. With its location in the middle of the United States, Kansas has held an important place throughout the history of the country. Many settlers passed through Kansas on the Oregon Trail and the Santa Fe Trail on their way west. Kansas was also known as part of cattle country. Dodge City, Kansas was a major shipping point for cattle. Cattle were driven to Kansas from Texas to be shipped to the eastern part of the country. Famous lawmen of the past, such as Wyatt Earp and Wild Bill Hickok tried to keep law and order in this area where cowboys and outlaws often clashed. Kansas was also a strong supporter of the Union in the Civil War. Kansas suffered through many droughts which caused problems with the economy of the state, but has adapted to the many challenges with new agricultural methods and new businesses. The state has continued to try different reforms in an effort to make the best life possible for its citizens. Many famous people are from Kansas, including Charles Curtis, Amelia Earhart, Gene Mauch, Ronald Ellwin Evans, Jr., Walter Perry Johnson, Emmett Kelly, Sr., and Walter Percy Chrysler.

Look at the map of Kansas below. Label the capital of Kansas. Locate the cities of Wichita, Lawrence, Manhattan, Overland Park, Kansas City, Olathe, Dodge City, Fairfax, Greensburg, Oakley, Mankato, Seneca, Oswego, Tribune, Osborne, and Abilene, and label them on the map. Now label the Red Hills and the Smoky Hills. Also, locate the Big Blue River, Kansas River, Arkansas River, Missouri River, Cimarron River, Neosho River, Republican River, Saline River, Solomon River, Smoky Hill River, Verdigris River, Milford Lake, Fall River Lake, Kanopolis Lake, McKinney Lake, Pomona Lake, Toronto Lake, Tuttle Creek Lake, Webster Lake, and Lake Inman, and label them. Lastly, label the states or bodies of water that border Kansas. When you have finished, move on to the timeline of Kansas history on the next page and the research prompts that follow.



Timeline of Kansas History

1541

1682

1803

1835

1854

1859

1860

1861

1862

1863

1867

1874

1884

1892

1894

1923

1928

1932

1937

1991

1. The first newspaper in the state printed in English begins
2. Oil is discovered near Neodesha
3. Lucy Hobbs Taylor becomes the first woman dentist in Kansas
4. Kansas becomes part of the United States with the Louisiana Purchase
5. Beech Aircraft is founded in Wichita
6. Kansas becomes the 34th state in the Union
7. The United States Industrial Training School is founded to provide an education for Native American children
8. A cage elevator is installed in the Kansas state capitol
9. Francisco de Coronado leads a party of the first Europeans into the area that is now Kansas
10. Kansas State University is founded
11. Kansas elects its first woman governor
12. The first Kansas library opens
13. Wheat becomes the leading crop of Kansas
14. The first newspaper in the state is printed. It is printed in the Shawnee language.
15. Kansas establishes the State Soil Conservation Committee, now a part of the Kansas Department of Agriculture
16. Land is donated for the Kansas state capitol
17. René-Robert Cavelier, sieur de la Salle claims the area of Kansas for France
18. Immigrants from Russia, many of them Mennonites, settle in Kansas. The Turkey Red wheat they brought provides a new abundant winter wheat crop for the state.
19. Senator Charles Curtis, a Native American, is elected Vice President of the United States
20. The first railroad in the state is built

Research Prompt #1

Research the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. How was Kansas affected? What were some of the causes? What was done to help the farmers that stayed on their farms? Did the new methods work? Were the new methods continued or did the farmers abandon them when things improved?

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Research Prompt #2

What was the Kansas-Nebraska Act? How did it conflict with the Missouri Compromise of 1820? Did it help or hinder the efforts to stop slavery? What impact is it considered to have had on the start of the Civil War?

[illegible]

Research Prompt #3

Many pioneers traveling west used the Oregon Trail and the Santa Fe Trail that went through Kansas. What parts of Kansas did the trails go through? What cities are located in those areas today? What affect, if any, do you think that the trails going through these parts of Kansas had on the building of cities in those areas?

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Timeline of Kansas History

Answer Key

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	1682	René-Robert Cavelier, sieur de la Salle claims the area of Kansas for France
Kansas becomes part of the United States with the Louisiana Purchase	1803	
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The first newspaper in the state printed in English begins	1854	
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Land is donated for the Kansas state capitol	1862	
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Lucy Hobbs Taylor becomes the first woman dentist in Kansas	1867	
	1874	Immigrants from Russia, many of them Mennonites, settle in Kansas. The Turkey Red wheat they brought provides a new abundant winter wheat crop for the state.
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	1892	Oil is discovered near Neodesha
Wheat becomes the leading crop of Kansas	1894	
	1923	A cage elevator is installed in the Kansas state capitol
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	1932	Beech Aircraft is founded in Wichita
Kansas establishes the State Soil Conservation Committee, now a part of the Kansas Department of Agriculture	1937	
	1991	Kansas elects its first woman governor