**African and African-American Chronology**

**400 – 1100 C.E. Ghana Empire**

The Ghana Empire began trading, with the Arabs, in the Sahara Desert with camels. Communication with the Arabs made it possible for the world to know about this magnificent empire, for the Arabs expressed in writing the structure of the old kingdom.

**1200 – 1450 Kingdom of Mali**

Under the king Mansa Munsa, the states in the kingdom of Mali were converted into Islam. Schools and libraries were built to educate the citizens; poets and artists flourished during this period of time.

**1600’s African Slave trade began with the New World**

Africans had their own slave trade system. When the Portuguese arrived the system of slave trading continued with a major difference, slaves were now put on ships and exported to an unknown part of the world. With the slave trade, the history of the Americas and Africa collided.

**1619 The first Africans arrived in North America**

Jamestown, Virginia became the new home for the imported Africans; they were not treated like slaves though. They were called servants, for they had not implement yet the slavery system. This main event marked the beginning of the African roots in the United States.

**1640 The case of John Punch**

John Punch escaped from a Virginia plantation where he used to work as a servant. After he was found, the Governor’s Counsel sentenced him to serve his master for the rest of his life. It is said that with Punch’s case the history of slaves “officially” began in the United States.

**1664 Interracial marriage prohibited**

Although the law that prohibited marriages between white women and black men was implemented first in Maryland, years later it was implemented throughout the country. This created segregation that lasted over 300 years in the United States.

**1680 System of slavery developed in the U.S.**

Black servants were now officially slaves. Owners would do as they pleased with their property, slaves were included. By this time, a slave was not seen as a person under the law and they had no rights. For the next centuries, blacks faced a cruel fate under the ruling whites.

**1739 Slave revolt in South Carolina**

In South Carolina, a few slaves revolted against the slavery system; this was not the first or only revolt against the white supremacy. The revolt in South Carolina was presumed to be led by an educated slave, for this reason a new law passed against the slaves. They were prohibited to gather in groups, and become educated in the English language. Most slaves never learned how to write or write.

**1838 Underground Railroad**

The National Antislavery Society organized the Underground Railroad. Agents of the newly system helped thousands of runaway slaves from the South. Some slaves planned their escapes, other ones were unable to do it. The Underground Railroad gave hope the slaves that were still captive under the Confederate South.

**1847 Frederick Douglas as a free man**

Douglas escaped from slavery in the 1930’s; he became an abolitionist after his escape. As an educated man he began writing for an abolitionist newspaper, he also wrote his autobiography. Because of his autobiography, in the present, it is known how slaves used to live their lives. Douglas was an inspiration for many African-American throughout the U.S. history.

**1863 President Abraham Lincoln emancipates slavery**

The abolition of slavery greatly impacted African Americans’ history. The Confederate south had no longer the right to keep slaves. African Americans were now free, but did not have the same rights as the whites. In the striving for survival, in a society that did not accept their freedom, took many lives from the African descendants. Various groups in the south violently terrorized the African American communities.

**1909 National Association of the Advancement of Colored is founded**

William E. Du Bois along with other African American founded the NAACP. The mission of this organization was to ensure equality of all people and to end racial discrimination. With the NAACP, African Americans new they had protection in a country where they were unwanted.

**1920 The beginning of the Harlem Renaissance**

The Harlem Renaissance was a movement by the African American in which they presented a new black cultural identity. The movement had many intellectuals; from writers to musicians and many more who felt proud of their African American identity. It created conscious in society, for African American exposed their talents and showed they were able to do what whites did.

**1954 Brown V. Board of Education**

For decades African Americans did not receive adequate education in schools. Although they were finally able to attend school and become professionals, they did not get the same quality of education as the whites. With the Brown V. Board of Education, segregation in schools was declared unconstitutional. This provided the opportunity for African Americans to get the same education as the whites. It was a major step on the path of creating an equal America.

**1963 Martin Luther King Jr. arrested**

The leader of the Civil Rights movement was arrested in an anti-segregation protest. While in jail, he wrote a famous letter “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” in which he requested that all disobedience, from a discriminatory society, should be non-violent. Although he did not live to witness the end of the movement, he is remembered as a key element for the accomplishments of the movement. He was and is an inspiration for many people all over the world.

**2009 First African American President in the United States**

The democrat Barack Obama became the first African American President in the United States. Although discrimination still exists, Obama is proving that nothing is impossible.