1866

Congress overrides the president's veto and passes the Civil Rights Act of 1866. It declares that all people born in the United States are citizens except for Native Americans.

1867

- Congress overrides the president's veto and passes the Reconstruction Act of 1867. This divides the South into five military districts and gives the federal government power over how the states are governed.
- The United States purchases Alaska from Russia for $7.2 million. This expands the U.S. by almost 600,000 square miles.

1868

- Andrew Johnson is the first U.S. president to be impeached. He avoids being removed from office by one vote after his trial in the Senate.
- The Fort Laramie Treaty is signed. This grants the Sioux rights to the Black Hills in exchange for peace.
- The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified. It ensures that all people born or naturalized in the United States are citizens.

1869

Construction is completed on the first transcontinental railroad, opening the West to faster settlement.

1870

The Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified. It guarantees voting rights for Black men.

1872

Yellowstone is established as the first national park.

1873

Jay Cooke & Company goes bankrupt. More bankruptcies follow, and the United States enters an economic depression.

1874

Gold is discovered in the Black Hills in Dakota Territory. Miners rush to stake claims.

1876

General George Armstrong Custer and 200 U.S. troops are killed by the Sioux at the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

1877

- President Rutherford B. Hayes withdraws all U.S. troops from the South, ending Reconstruction.
- Crazy Horse and other Sioux leaders surrender to U.S. troops. Sitting Bull and his followers escape to Canada.