

POP Culture: 1840

ICONS: Sewing Machines, Wagon Trains, Charles Dickens



- Captain Charles Wilkes circumnavigates Antarctica, claiming it for the United States on January 19, 1840.
- The first wagon train leaves Independence, MO, bound for California on May 1, 1841.
- The August 9, 1842, Webster-Ashburton Treaty formally designates the border separating the United States and Canada.
- On May 24, 1844, Samuel B. Morse sends the message, "What hath God wrought" over the first telegraph line from Washington, DC, to Baltimore, MD.
- Alexander Cartwright and his New York Knickerbockers codify the "Rules of Baseball" in 1845.
- Elias Howe patents the sewing machine on September 10, 1846.
- The American Medical Association is founded in Philadelphia on May 7, 1847.
- Elizabeth Blackwell receives the first medical degree awarded to a woman on January 23, 1849, from the Medical Institute of Geneva, NY.

The 1840 Census

U.S. Resident Population:	17,063,353
Population per square mile of land area:	9.8
Percent increase of population from 1830 to 1840:	32.7
Official Enumeration Date:	June 1
Number of States:	26
Cost:	\$833,000
Cost per Capita (cents):	4.9
Total Pages in Published Reports:	1,465
Number of Enumerators:	2,167
Number of Office Staff:	28
Census Bureau Director:	William Augustus Weaver
Number of Questions Asked:	12

10 Largest Urban Places

Rank	Place	Population
1	New York City, NY	312,710
2	Baltimore, MD	102,313
3	New Orleans, LA	102,193
4	Philadelphia, PA	93,665
5	Boston, MA	93,383
6	Cincinnati, OH	46,338
7	Brooklyn, NY	36,233
8	Northern Liberties District, PA	34,474
9	Albany, NY	33,721
10	Charleston, SC	29,261

[Contact Us](#) | [Home](#)

USCENSUSBUREAU

Helping You Make Informed Decisions