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## Top News Stories by Decade: All Decades

### 1940s

**Japan Attacks Pearl Harbor**
- **Date:** December 7, 1941
- The Imperial Japanese Navy launched a surprise attack on the U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor on Oahu Island, Hawaii. The Japanese...

**D-Day Invasion**
- **Date:** June 6, 1944
- U.S., British and Canadian forces launched the largest amphibious assault in history, as part of an effort to repel German forces from the beaches of...

**Auschwitz Liberation**
- **Date:** January 27, 1945
- On January 27, 1945, Soviet troops liberated Nazi Germany’s largest and death-camp complex near the Polish town of Oswiecim, better known by the...

**Yalta Conference**
- **Date:** February 4-11, 1945
- The leaders of the three chief Allied powers during World War II... President Franklin D. Roosevelt of the U.S., Prime Minister Winston Churchill of...

**Dropping of Atomic Bombs**
- **Date:** August 6-9, 1945
- World War II, the most horrific conflict in world history, came to a catastrophic end. In August 1945, the United States dropped atomic weapons on...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top News Stories by Decade: 1980s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Reported Cases of AIDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 5, 1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the early 1980s a new and deadly disease emerged in the U.S. and other parts of the world. In 1981, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control began...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran-Contra Affair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 20, 1986 - March 4, 1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Reagan's second term as president became engulfed in a controversy beginning in late 1986 stemming from the covert sales of arms to Iran and...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenger Space Shuttle Explodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 28, 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The U.S. space program suffered a tragic loss with the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger. The Challenger blew up shortly after takeoff from...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chernobyl Explosion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26, 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The world's worst nuclear accident occurred in April 1986 when an aging nuclear reactor at the Chernobyl plant in the then-U.S.S.R. exploded...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestinian Uprising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 29, 1987 - September 13, 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 1993 and 1997, Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip carried out a guerrilla campaign...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiananmen Square Demonstrations and Massacre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15, 1989 - June 4, 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spurring economic growth in China in the late 1980s brought with it a stronger desire for political freedoms. For a few weeks in the spring of 1989...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berlin Wall Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 9, 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel restrictions between East Germany and West Germany were ended on...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sorting the results from oldest to newest is a good way to start building a narrative timeline.
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