



# **HISTORY OF PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**

**TEACHER VERSION**



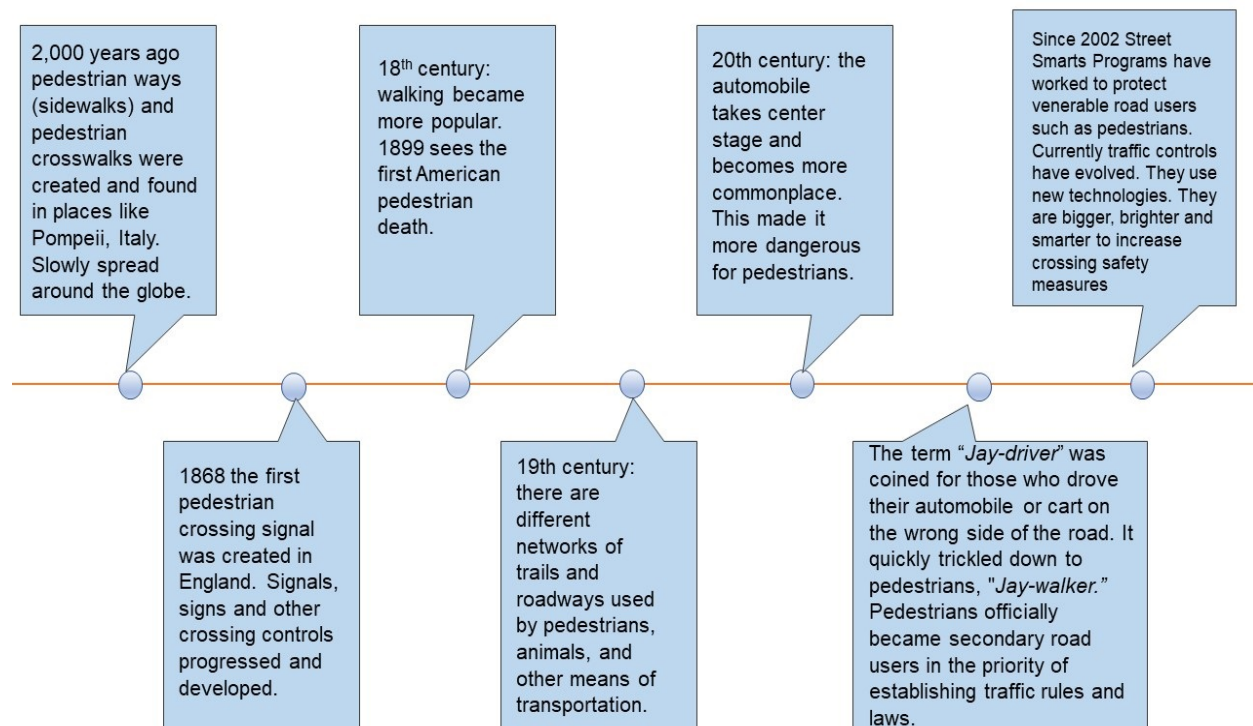
## READ:

### BRIEF PEDESTRIAN BACKGROUND

Let's briefly look back on pedestrians. When you hear, "pedestrian" what do you imagine? Possibly you pictured one of your neighbors walking up and down your street. Or even looking out the car window watching people walk on sidewalks and crossing on crosswalks. Well let's dig a little into the history of pedestrians.

60,000 years ago, the first pedestrians traversed the continents. They made their way walking from Africa through India to Australia. Through Asia to the Americas, and through Central Asia into Europe. From 60,000 to 6,000 Years ago the first foot trail-ways were created by repeatedly used routes for food, water and supplies. Some obstacles in walking were natural elements and blocking of pathways. 6,000 years ago, the first official footpaths are recorded around Spring of Jericho. 4000 years ago, the first fortified pathways were built. It became easier to travel longer distances to common resources. Sharing the road with other travelers interesting and because of that negotiating to share and trade resources with others was made possible. 3,500 years ago, pack animals such as donkeys, camels, elephants, and many others were domesticated and used for transportation of goods and eventually humans. Pathways became roadways and our first superhighways. These roadways became progressively more dangerous to pedestrians and all other road users because they were being shared. The more this became an issue the need for determining separating rules of the roadways became more important. Safety education became a large part of the risk mitigation for pedestrians.

### BRIEF TIMELINE OF PEDESTRIAN SAFETY



*After reading the background information, watch the video below before completing the questions.*

**WATCH:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VI2BoR1pu3g>



## ANSWER:

In your own words, briefly summarize why there were risks to pedestrians and why there was a need for pedestrian safety technologies and education.

*Answers may vary. But could include things like, as more road-users, animals, and the automobile all started to share the same roadways; there was clutter and confusion. Leading to risks like injuries. Signals, signs, crosswalks and safety laws and education need to be created to organize the flow of all traffic and keep everyone safe.*

In your own words, explain where the term “jay-walking” came from.

*The term jay was used for people that lived in the country and weren't quite familiar with the modern city. So, when someone was driving incorrectly the term jay driver was used for someone unfamiliar with the rules of the road. Which quickly trickled to jay walker for anyone who was walking around not complying with the pedestrian walkways or rules.*

In what year was the first pedestrian crossing signal created and where?

*In 1868 the first pedestrian crossing signal was created in England.*