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January 7, 1891	Born in Notasulga, Alabama, the fifth of eight children, to John Hurston, a carpenter and Baptist preacher, and Lucy Potts Hurston, a former schoolteacher.
September 1917 - June 1918	Attends Morgan Academy in Baltimore, completing the high school requirements.
Summer 1918	Works as a waitress in a nightclub and a manicurist in a black-owned barbershop that only serves whites.
1918 - 1919	Attends Howard Prep School, Washington, D.C.
1919 - 1924	Attends Howard University; receives an associate degree in 1920.
1921	Publishes her first story, "John Redding Goes to Sea," in <i>Stylus</i> , the campus literary society's magazine.
December 1924	Publishes "Drenched in Light," a short story, in <i>Opportunity</i> .
1925	Submits a story, "Spunk," and a play, <i>Color Struck</i> , to <i>Opportunity's</i> literary contest. Both win second-place award; publishes "Spunk" in the June number.
1925 - 1927	Attends Barnard College, studying anthropology with Franz Boas.
1926	Begins field work for Boas in Harlem.
January 1926	Publishes "John Redding Goes to Sea" in <i>Opportunity</i> .
Summer 1926	Organizes <i>Fire!</i> With Langston Hughes and Wallace Thurman; they publish only one issue, in November 1926. The issue includes Hurston's "Sweat."
August 1926	Publishes "Muttsy" in <i>Opportunity</i> .
September 1926	Publishes "Possum or Pig" in the <i>Forum</i> .
September - November 1926	Publishes "The Eatonville Anthology" in the <i>Messenger</i> .
1927	Publishes <i>The First One</i> , a play, in Charles S. Johnson's <i>Ebony and Topaz</i> .
February 1927	Goes to Florida to collect folklore.

May 19, 1927	Marries Herbert Sheen.
September 1927	First visits Mrs. Rufus Osgood Mason, seeking patronage.
October 1927	Publishes an account of the black settlement at St. Augustine, Florida, in the <i>Journal of Negro History</i> ; also in this issue: "Cudjo's Own Story of the Last African Slaver."
December 1927	Signs a contract with Mason, enabling her to return to the South to collect folklore.
1928	Satirized as "Sweetie Mae Carr" in Wallace Thurman's novel about the Harlem Renaissance <i>Infants of the Spring</i> ; receives a bachelor of arts degree from Barnard.
January 1928	Relations with Sheen break off.
May 1928	Publishes "How It Feels to be Colored Me" in <i>The World Tomorrow</i> .
1930 - 1932	Organizes the field notes that become <i>Mules and Men</i> .
May - June 1930	Works on the play <i>Mule Bone</i> with Langston Hughes.
1931	Publishes "Hoodoo in America" in the <i>Journal of American Folklore</i> .
February 1931	Breaks with Langston Hughes over the authorship of <i>Mule Bone</i> .
July 7, 1931	Divorces Sheen.
September 1931	Writes for a theatrical revue called <i>Fast and Furious</i> .
January 1932	Writes and stages a theatrical revue called <i>The Great Day</i> , first performed on January 10 on Broadway at the John Golden Theatre; works with the creative literature department of Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida, to produce a concert program of Negro music.
1933	Writes "The Fiery Chariot."
January 1933	Stages <i>From Sun to Sun</i> (a version of <i>Great Day</i>) at Rollins College.
August 1933	Publishes "The Gilded Six-Bits" in <i>Story</i> .
1934	Publishes six essays in Nancy Cunard's anthology, <i>Negro</i> .
January 1934	Goes to Bethune-Cookman College to establish a school of dramatic arts "based on pure Negro expression."

May 1934	Publishes <i>Jonah's Gourd Vine</i> , originally titled <i>Big Nigger</i> ; it is a Book-of-the-Month Club selection.
September 1934	Publishes "The Fire and the Cloud" in the <i>Challenge</i> .
November 1934	Singing Steel (a version of Great Day) performed in Chicago.
January 1935	Begins to study for a Ph.D in anthropology at Columbia University on a fellowship from the Rosenwald Foundation.
August 1935	Joins the WPA Federal Theater Project as a "dramatic coach."
October 1935	<i>Mules and Men</i> published.
March 1936	Awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship to study West Indian obeah practices.
April - September 1936	In Jamaica.
September - March 1937	In Haiti; writes <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> in seven weeks.
May 1937	Returns to Haiti on a renewed Guggenheim.
September 1937	Returns to the United States; <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> published, September 18.
February - March 1938	Writes <i>Tell My Horse</i> ; it is published the same year.
April 1939	Joins the Federal Writers Project in Florida to work on <i>The Florida Negro</i> .
1939	Publishes "Now Take Noses" in <i>Cordially Yours</i> .
June 1939	Receives an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Morgan State college.
Summer 1939	Hired at a drama instructor by North Carolina College for Negroes at Durham; meets Paul Green, professor of drama, at the University of North Carolina.
November 1939	<i>Moses, Man of the Mountain</i> published.
February 1940	Files for divorce from Price, though the two are reconciled briefly.

Summer 1940	Makes a folklore-collecting trip to South Carolina.
Spring - July 1941	Writes <i>Dust Tracks on a Road</i> .
July 1941	Publishes "Cock Robin, Beale Street" in the <i>Southern Literary Messenger</i> .
October 1941- January 1942	Works as a story consultant at Paramount Pictures.
July 1942	Publishes "Story in Harlem Slang" in the <i>American Mercury</i> .
September 5, 1942	Publishes a profile of Lawrence Silas in the <i>Saturday Evening Post</i> .
November 1942	<i>Dust Tracks on a Road</i> published.
February 1943	Awarded the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award in Race Relations for <i>Dust Tracks</i> ; on the cover of the <i>Saturday Review</i> .
March 1943	Receives Howard University's Distinguished Alumni Award.
May 1943	Publishes "The 'Pet Negro' Syndrome" in the <i>American Mercury</i> .
November 1943	Divorce from Price granted.
June 1944	Publishes "My Most Humiliating Jim Crow Experience" in the <i>Negro Digest</i> .
1945	Writes <i>Mrs. Doctor</i> ; it is rejected by Lippincott.
March 1945	Publishes "The Rise of the Begging Joints" in the <i>American Mercury</i> .
December 1945	Publishes "Crazy for This Democracy" in the <i>Negro Digest</i> .
1947	Publishes a review of Robert Tallant's <i>Voodoo</i> in <i>New Orleans in the Journal of American Folklore</i> .
May 1947	Goes to British Honduras to research black communities in Central America; writes <i>Seraph on the Suwanee</i> ; stays in Honduras until March 1948.
October 1948	<i>Seraph on the Suwanee</i> published.
March 1950	Publishes "Conscience of the Court" in the <i>Saturday Evening Post</i> , while working as a maid in Rivo Island, Florida.

April 1950	Publishes "What White Publishers Won't Print" in the <i>Saturday Evening Post</i> .
November 1950	Publishes "I Saw Negro Votes Peddled" in the <i>American Legion</i> magazine.
Winter 1950 - 1951	Moves to Belle Glade, Florida.
June 1951	Publishes "Why the Negro Won't Buy Communism" in the <i>American Legion</i> magazine.
December 8, 1951	Publishes "A Negro Voter Sizes up Taft" in the <i>Saturday Evening Post</i> .
1952	Hired by the Pittsburgh Courier to cover the Ruby McCollum case.
May 1956	Receives an award for "education and human relations" at Bethune-Cookman College.
June 1956	Works as a librarian at Patrick Air Force Base in Florida.
1957 - 1959	Writes a column on "Hoodoo and Black Magic" for the <i>Fort Pierce Chronicle</i> .
1958	Works as a substitute teacher at Lincoln Park Academy, Fort Pierce.
Early 1959	Suffers a stroke.
October 1959	Forced to enter the St. Lucie County Welfare Home.
January 28, 1960	Dies in the St. Lucie County Welfare Home of "hypertensive heart disease"; buried in an unmarked grave in the Garden of Heavenly Rest, Fort Pierce.
August 1973	Alice Walker discovers and marks Hurston's grave.
March 1975	Walker publishes "In Search of Zora Neale Hurston," in <i>Ms.</i> , launching a Hurston revival.

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