



What Happened Since 1899?

Events, inventions, natural disasters, and science developments in the twentieth century to investigate for the school year.

Compiled by Rebecca K. Fraker

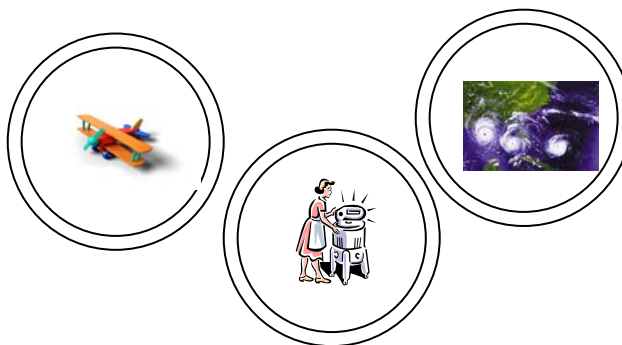




WHAT HAPPENED SINCE 1899 this month?

Ways you can use this list:

- Simply post it
- Use for short research topics
- Use as play topics
- Make time lines
- Make circles and illustrate each event
- Write a story starter for each event
- Choose 5 dates from a hat and research those events. Have each class member choose the one that they think influenced history the most, and then have each person defend their choices. (Oral or written.)
- Choose an event and write a “newspaper” column about it using the 5 Ws.
- Assign each student a different event. Each person prepares a PowerPoint slide on the event. Then combine them for a rundown of the month.
- Use Moviemaker or a similar program to prepare a “movie” of one of the events.
- Have each student prepare one or two “radio” shorts for the day’s event. Take turns “announcing the news” each morning.
- Try to find people in the church or community that actually remember some of these events. Interview them about their reactions at that time.





WHAT HAPPENED SINCE 1899 in August?

August 1

- 1941 Answering the call of the Army, Willys Truck Company invents the jeep.
- 1956 The Salk polio vaccine becomes available to the public.



August 2

- 1909 The first military plane is delivered—made by the Wright brothers.
- 1934 Hitler becomes absolute dictator of Germany

1939 Albert Einstein, a life-long pacifist, is so fearful of Nazi Germany's progress toward an atomic bomb, that he writes the US government to urge them to speed up research in the atomic area.



August 3

1958 The US Submarine *USS Nautilus* makes the first undersea voyage to the geographic North Pole. The *Nautilus*, the world's first nuclear submarine, dove in at Alaska and traveled 1000 miles under the ice to reach the pole.

August 4

1912 Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish architect and humanitarian, was born. He rescued at least 100,000 Jews from Nazi death camps during WWII. Near the end of the war, he was kidnapped and mysteriously disappeared.



August 5

1963 Representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union, and Great Britain sign the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which prohibits the testing of nuclear weapons in outer space, underwater, or in the atmosphere.

August 6

1962 After 307 years within the British Commonwealth, Jamaica becomes an independent dominion.

August 7

1947 *Kon Tiki*, a balsa wood raft, runs aground on the Tuamotu Archipelago after a 4300 mile trip from Peru. Thor Heyerdahl attempted to prove that pre-Incan Indians could have colonized the Polynesian islands by drifting on rafts made of native materials.



August 8

1974 President Richard M. Nixon becomes the first President in US history to resign.

August 9

1910 The first electric washing machine is patented by A.J. Fisher of Chicago.





August 10

1921 Future US President Franklin D. Roosevelt is diagnosed with polio.

August 11

1972 The last US ground combat unit in South Vietnam leaves for the United States. They had been guarding Da Nang.

August 12



2000 The Russian sub *Kursk* and its crew sink in the Barents Sea after a torpedo explodes. Many of the crew survive for days, but rescue is impossible.

August 13

1914 Car Wickman of Minnesota, creates the first bus line in the United States, called Greyhound.

August 14

1925 American sculptor Gutzon Borglum proposes the monumental Mount Rushmore project; it is not completed until 1941 by his son James.



August 15

The Panama Canal is inaugurated with the passage of the US vessel *Ancon*, a passenger and cargo ship.

August 16

1977 Known as the king of rock'n'roll, Elvis Presley dies at the age of 42 in his home in Memphis, Tennessee.

August 17

1940 Nazi German dictator Adolf Hitler orders a complete blockade of Great Britain.

August 18

1961 The Berlin Wall is completed, dividing East and West Germany.



August 19

1909 A dirt track is opened for the testing of automobiles in Indianapolis, Indiana. It would later become the Indianapolis Speedway.

August 20

1991 The Republic of Estonia declares its immediate and full independence from the Soviet Union.

August 21

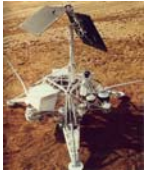
1911 Vincenzo Peruggia walks into the Louvre in Paris, France, goes to the painting the *Mona Lisa*, removes it from the wall, hides it beneath his clothes, and escapes. Two years later he is arrested when he tries to retrieve the ransom he requested for it. *Mona Lisa* was unharmed.





August 22

1992 Hurricane Andrew strikes Florida, with damages estimated at \$7.3 billion, making it one of the most costly hurricanes in US history.



August 23

1996 *US Lunar Orbiter I* takes the first photograph of Earth from the moon.

August 24

1995 In the most publicized software release in history, Microsoft's Windows 95 goes on sale, selling some 7 million units within six weeks.

August 25

1919 The world's first scheduled international airline flight takes off, between London, England, and Paris, France.

August 26

1968 The Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Illinois, becomes the most violent convention in US history. Thousands of anti-war protestors take to the streets to protest the Vietnam War. The Chicago police beat hundreds of people, including innocent bystanders. Much was televised.

August 27

1984 President Reagan announces that the first "citizen astronaut" will fly aboard the space shuttle. The pick was Christa McAuliffe, a schoolteacher. She will die in the launch of the shuttle *Challenger* a few years later.



August 28

1963 Martin Luther King, Jr., speaks to more than 200,000 people on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. The peaceful rally was capped by King's now famous "I have a dream" speech.

August 29

1945 US general Douglas MacArthur is named the Supreme Commander of Allied Powers in Japan.



August 30

1967 Thurgood Marshall, an African American, becomes the first black African American to become a Supreme Court justice.



August 31

1997 Princess of Wales, Diana, dies in a car crash in France.



WHAT HAPPENED SINCE 1899 in September?

September 1



1907 The first Christmas Seals campaign was held by the American Lung Association. This association helps those with lung problems from TB to asthma www.lungusa.org

September 2

1945 Ho Chi Minh proclaimed that Vietnam was free from France and established the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.



September 3

1935 Sir Malcolm Campbell reaches 304.331 miles per hour on the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah, becoming the first person to drive an automobile over 300 mph.

September 4

1957 Little Rock Nine: Arkansas Governor Oval Faubus called out the Arkansas National Guard to turn away nine black students who had been trying to attend Central High School in Little Rock. President Eisenhower sent in troops to enforce the integration of the school.

September 5

1972 Members of the Black September faction of the Palestinian Liberation Army attacked the Israeli Olympic Team in Munich. Eleven of the Israeli team were killed. In retaliation, Israel bombed Palestinian positions in Syria and Lebanon on September 8.

September 6

1968 Swaziland Independence Day, the day that Swaziland gained its independence from Britain.



September 7

1914 In this year, the New York Post Office opened to the public. On this building was inscribed a quote from Herodotus that says "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." The public adopted this as the post office's motto, but in reality there is no official motto.



September 8

1986 The first talk show hosted by a black woman premiered. Oprah Winfrey eventually upgraded the quality of the topics that her show presented, and has become not only wealthy, but a highly influential woman world wide.

September 9

1947 First actual case of a "computer bug" being found in a computer: the Harvard Mark II computer at Harvard University has glitches with a real moth lodged in it.



September 10

1966 The Road Runner cartoon premiers. This clever bird with its Meep! Meep! always outwitted Wile E. Coyote. Today, he is still a very recognizable character, and is a trademark of a fast internet service.



September 11

2001 No one who lived through this day will ever forget it. Terrorists believed to be agents of Osama Bin Laden hijacked four planes, crashing two of them into the World Trade Center's twin towers. Both buildings collapsed about a hour later, killing over 3,000 people. One crashed into the Pentagon with further destruction and loss of life. The fourth may have been headed for the Senate or White House; however, passengers staged an attack. The plane crashed and killed all on board. But these passengers are credited with having prevented a worse tragedy.



September 12



1954 The long-running TV series "Lassie", about a wonderful collie and his human family, premiered. Lassie was very loosely based on the original book "Lassie" by

September 13

1976 There were muppets earlier on Sesame Street. But this date saw the premiere of "The Muppet Show". New characters included Miss Piggy, The Great Gonzo and Fozzie Bear.

September 14

1914 The last of millions of passenger pigeons dies in captivity. Considered both a nuisance and a food source, settlers killed all of them. "Martha" died at the Cincinnati Zoo.

September 15

1940 This day commemorates the end of the biggest daylight bombing raids of Britain by the German Luftwaffe in 1940. The British held out, and it is said to have been the turning point of World War II.

September 16

1908 General Motors company, which manufactures cars, is founded.

September 17

1920 The National Football League is formed.



September 18

1947 The United States Air Force established. The army started using planes in 1907, but the Air Force did not become a separate military service until this date.





September 19

1991 Otzi the Iceman is discovered by hikers. At first thought to be a recent homicide, it soon became apparent that Otzi had died thousands of years before. It will take many more years before scientists discover that Otzi had been shot by an stone-tipped arrow.



September 20

1973 Billie Jean King defeated Bobby Riggs in a highly publicized “Battle of the Sexes” tennis match.

September 21

1904 The death of Nez Perce Chief Joseph. He led his people nearly a thousand miles in an attempt to escape to Canada when faced with either a war or a reservation. He and his people were captured only 40 miles from the border and sent to a reservation at Oklahoma.



September 22

1903 An Italian immigrant started his career with pushcarts that sold ices and creams and soon was successful. He first invented a paper cone, and later one of pastry, to serve his treats. He filed a patent this year for his cone idea.

September 23

1952 Then Vice-President candidate Richard Nixon told the public on TV that although he was found “clean as a hound’s tooth” in connection with taking funds from a political expense fund, he did take a cocker spaniel dog for his daughters. The dog’s name was Checkers, and the speech became known as the “Checkers Speech”

September 24

1936 The birth of Jim Henson, who created a very unique family of large puppets called Muppets. There are very few people who have not seen Big Bird, Bert and Ernie, Kermit the Frog, and Miss Piggy.



September 25

1981 The first woman U. S. Supreme Court justice is sworn in. Sandra Day O’Connor was nominated by President Ronald Reagan.

September 26

1960 The very first televised Presidential debate! John F. Kennedy debated Richard M. Nixon in a Chicago studio. Kennedy wore make-up and appeared very fit and relaxed. Nixon, who was less media savvy, turned down the make-up and appeared ill at ease and pasty. Many historians think that this debate had a great influence on the closely-fought race.



September 27

1964 The long-awaited report stating that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy the previous November. Later, in 1979, Congress reopened the investigation and concluded that there was most likely a conspiracy involved, but no others have ever been arrested.



September 28

1939 Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union agree on a division of Poland after their invasion during WWII. Later, Germany and the Soviet Union turn on each other.

September 29

1907 The cornerstone is laid at the Washington National Cathedral in the US capital. It is not finished until many decades later.



September 30

1927 Babe Ruth hits his 60th home run of the season. This record for most homers in a single season will stand for another 34 years, until Roger Maris hit 61 in 1961. Maris' record was broken in 1998 by Mark McGwire with 70 runs. Barry Bonds set a new record of 73 in 2001. But many people think that had Babe Ruth used the new improved materials, he most likely would still hold the record.



WHAT HAPPENED SINCE 1899 in October?



October 1

1908 Ford introduced the Model T at a price of \$850, but by 1924 was able to sell it for as little as \$260. Because the car became so popular, Ford was forced to develop his system where workers stood in one place and the cars came to them. Eventually Ford could turn out a car every ten seconds. Between 1908 and 1927 over 15,000,000 Model Ts were sold!

October 2

1950 Charles Schulz introduces the "Peanuts" comic strip. Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus, Sally, Peppermint Patty, and the dog Snoopy have become beloved figures worldwide. Schulz died in 2000, but his strips and specials are still being rerun.



October 3

1990 After 45 years of division after WWII, East and West Germany reunited.

October 4

1957 The first successful man-made Earth satellite was launched. Named Sputnik I, it was fired into orbit by the USSR. It weighed 184 pounds and stayed in orbit transmitting radio signals for 21 days. This is considered the beginning of the Space Age, and the resulting panic in the United States fueled a stepped-up emphasis on science and math.



October 5

2001 Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants broke the home run record when he hit his 71st home run. Later he hit two more runs to end the season with 73.

October 6

1973 Israel was caught off guard by a surprise attack by Egypt and Syria. The attack came on Yom Kippur, the holiest of the Jewish religious days. Hostilities were halted by the United Nations eighteen days later, but Israel failed to regain all the lost land.

October 7

1955 Yo-Yo Ma, the famous cellist, is born in Paris, France.

October 8

1941 Birth date of Jesse Jackson, famous black clergyman and civil rights leader.



October 9

1981 Abolition of capital punishment in France.

October 10

1973 The Vice President of the United States, Spiro Agnew, resigns after being charged with federal income tax evasion. President Nixon was President at the time.



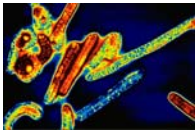


October 11

2000 The space shuttle Discovery was launched, making the 100th space shuttle flight. Since its first flight in 1981, the shuttles have carried nearly 300 people and over 3 million pounds of payload. In addition, they have logged an estimated 350 million miles.

October 12

Dia De La Raza Called the “Day of the Race”, this day is observed in Mexico every year as a fiesta time to commemorate the discovery of America as well as the common interests and cultural heritage of the Spanish, Hispanic, and Indian peoples.



October 13

1976 The first electron micrograph of an Ebola viral particle was obtained by Dr. F. A. Murphy, now at U. C. Davis, who was then working at the Center for Disease Control.

October 14

1964 Martin Luther King, Jr., became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize when awarded the honor. He donated the entire prize to furthering the civil rights movement.

1947 US Air Force pilot Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier, ushering in the era of supersonic flight. He was flying a Bell X-1 at Muroc Dry Lake Bed in California.

October 15

1964 The first White Cane Safety Day



October 16

1995 Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, organized a “holy day of atonement and reconciliation” in Washington, DC. Hundreds of thousands of black men met in the city, pledging to take responsibility for themselves, their families, and their communities. It is known as the Million Man March.

October 17

1989 The San Francisco Bay area was rocked by an earthquake registering 7.1 on the Richter scale, just as the nation’s baseball fans were settled in to watch the 1989 World Series. When the quake hit, it knocked the broadcast off the air. The quake killed 67 people, many in the collapse of the double-decked Interstate 80 near Oakland. Damage was estimated at \$10 billion.

October 18

1929 Women are considered “persons” under Canadian law.



October 19

2005 Saddam Hussein goes on trial in Baghdad for crimes against humanity. He is later convicted and hanged.



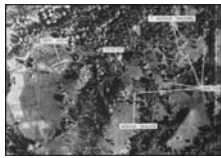
October 20

1944 During WWII, General Douglas MacArthur had been forced from the Philippines. Over two years later, he was able to fulfill his promise "I shall return". Under the command of General MacArthur, hundreds of tons of bombs were dropped and four divisions were landed on the Philippines, and General MacArthur was able to set foot on the soil of the island.

October 21

1967 Thousands of participants in a rally against the Vietnam War at Washington, DC, crossed the Potomac River and stormed the Pentagon. Over 250 were arrested. No shots were fired, but many of the 50,000 demonstrators were struck with nightsticks and rifle butts.

October 22



1962 The Cuban Missile Crisis President John F. Kennedy demanded that the Soviet Union remove their missiles from Cuba. The US imposed a naval "quarantine" to prevent further weaponry from reaching Cuba. After a very tense week, the USSR complied.

October 23

1942 Michael Crichton, an author, was born. Among other books, Crichton writes "Jurassic Park", a very believable story about a dinosaur theme park where the dinosaurs are created through DNA technology.



October 24

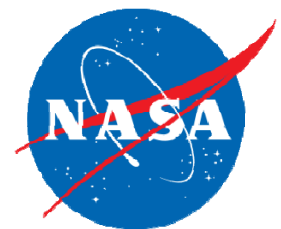
1945 Founding of the United Nations.

October 25

1991 Kazakhstan Independence Day. As a result of the dissolution of the USSR, Kazakhstan becomes independent.

October 26

1959 US President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs an executive order transferring Wernher von Braun and other German scientists from the United State Army to the National Aeronautic and Space Administration. Wernher von Braun's lifelong dream was to get rockets into space. He helped the Nazis develop their rocket technology and was taken captive by the United States at the very end of the war. He later became a naturalized citizen of the United States, where he helped develop the advances that landed us on the moon.



October 27

1904 The New York City subway begins operation. It was at first privately operated, and later it became part of the system operated by the NY City Transit Authority. It ran from City Hall to West 145th Street.



October 28

1914 Birth of Dr. Jonas Salk, developer of the Salk polio vaccine. In 1953 a polio epidemic claimed some 3300 lives in just the US. After the vaccine was introduced, polio deaths were reduced by 95%. Salk spent the last ten years of his life researching AIDS, and died in 1995.

October 29

1969 Creation of the Internet The first connection on what would become the "Internet" was made when bits of data flowed between Stanford Research Institute and UCLA. The Department of Defense developed ARPANET. Within three years, the @ system was adopted and a year after that 75% of the ARPANET traffic was e-mail. ARPANET was decommissioned in 1990 and the National Science Foundation's NSFnet took over the role of backbone of the Internet.



October 30

1938 Near panic results then listeners believes that H.G. Wells' "War of the World" radio broadcast is real, and that Martians are invading New Jersey.

October 31

1950 First black plays in an NBA game. Earl Lloyd becomes the first black basketball player to ever play in an NBA games. The New York Knicks and Boston Celtics also drafted and debuted black players this year, but Earl Lloyd was the first to play. He took the floor for the Washington Capitols at Rochester, NY.





WHAT HAPPENED SINCE 1899 in November?

November 1

1914 Russia declares war on the Ottoman Empire after the Ottoman fleet attacks the Black Sea port of Odessa, sinking two Russian ships.



November 2

1948 In the greatest upset in United States presidential election history, Democratic incumbent Harry S. Truman defeated Governor Dewey by just over two million votes. But long before the votes were final, The Chicago Tribune published an early version of the newspaper that announced "DEWEY DEFEATS TRUMAN". Truman took great delight in holding up the newspaper as he was photographed as the victor.

November 3

1952 American food pioneer Clarence Birdseye introduces the first frozen peas. Today, a line of frozen foods still bears his name.



November 4

1922 Howard Carter discovers a step in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt that will lead to the discovery of King Tut's tomb.



November 5

1963 Archaeologists working in Newfoundland discover the remains of a Viking settlement that predates Columbus in the New World by at least 500 years. Melting of the ice sheet since then has revealed more evidence that the Vikings had settlements in Newfoundland and Greenland during a period of global warming.

November 6

1921 The Sheik, a silent movie, introduces moviegoers to Rudolph Valentino. Women swooned in the aisles of the theaters.

November 7

1940 Breaking the precedent of two terms in office set by George Washington, Franklin D. Roosevelt runs for and wins a record third term in office.

November 8

1960 John F. Kennedy becomes the youngest man to be elected as President of the United States. He narrowly defeats Richard Nixon, and becomes the first Catholic elected President.

November 9

1906 President Theodore Roosevelt departs for Panama aboard a battleship. His mission is to inspect the construction of the Panama Canal. This is the first foreign trip by a United States president.





November 10

1975 Winter storms on Lake Superior sink the ship Edmund Fitzgerald, killing all crew members. The incident inspires a best-selling song.

November 11

1933 One of a group of massive dust storms rips through South Dakota. These windstorms devastated the American West during the droughts of the thirties. This region would become known as the Dust Bowl.



November 12

1912 Members of the shore party of British explorer Robert Scott's Antarctica expedition find the lonely tent in which Scott and two companions died more than seven months earlier on their return from the South Pole.



November 13

1982 The controversial V-shaped black granite wall inscribed with the names of the Americans who died in the Vietnam War opens. The designer is a young woman named Maya Lin. To everyone's surprise, this Vietnam Memorial has become a healing and moving place to visit. The names are inscribed in the order that the men died.

November 14

1948 The birth of Prince Charles, heir to the British throne.

November 15

1996 The ancient Scottish coronation stone called the *Stone of Destiny* is returned to Scotland. It had been stolen by the English King Edward I more than 700 years before. It is reportedly the stone pillow on which Jacob had his head when he received the vision of the angels ascending a ladder to Heaven.



November 16

1993 Vladimir Lenin's tomb is shut down by the Russian authorities.

November 17

1913 The first ship sails through the Panama Canal.



November 18

1993 South Africa approves a new democratic constitution that give blacks the vote and ends white minority rule.

November 19

1919 The United States rejects the Treaty of Versailles which attempts the create the League of Nations after WWI. The United States never does join the League.

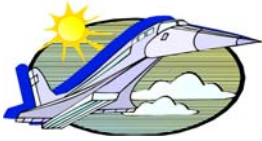
November 20

1947 Princess Elizabeth, heir to the British throne, marries Phillip Mountbatten, a prince of Greece and Denmark.



November 21

1977 The super-sonic Concorde airliner, developed by France and Great Britain, makes its first flight from London to New York city.



November 22

1935 Pan American airlines starts the first transpacific airmail service, flying from California to the Phillipines.

1963 John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

November 23

1906 The leader of the Church of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons) is convicted of polygamy. Joseph Smith pleaded guilty, was fined, and released.

November 24

1971 Hijacker D.B. Cooper parachutes from a Northwest Orient Airlines 727 into a bad thunderstorm over the state of Washington. He is carrying \$200,000. He is never seen or heard from again, although it is thought that some of the money has been found in the wilderness.



November 25

1948 Ed Parson invents cable TV.

November 26

1941 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs a bill declaring the last Thursday in November as the official Thanksgiving Day. Celebrating Thanksgiving on a Thursday dated back to Pilgrim times, and this proclamation made it official.



November 27

1983 Stores across the United States report being flooded by shoppers who sometimes turn violent trying to buy “Cabbage Patch Kids”, a fat doll that is “adopted” by its owner.



November 28

1948 The first successful self-developing camera, developed by Polaroid, goes on sale.

November 29

1944 The first surgery for “blue baby syndrome” is performed by surgeon Alfred Blalock and assistant Vivien Thomas. Done at Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, it is a fix for a common heart defect that killed thousands of babies.



November 30

1993 US President signs the Brady handgun-control bill into law. This requires a waiting period and a background check before a person can buy a handgun.



WHAT HAPPENED SINCE 1899 in December?

December 1

1959 Twelve nations including the US and the Soviet Union signed an Antarctica Treaty banning military activity and weapons testing on that continent. It was the first arms control agreement signed the Cold War period.

December 2

1901 American inventor Gillette patents the disposable safety razor.



December 3

1967 The first human heart transplant is performed on Lewis Washkansky who is 53. It is performed in Cape Town, South Africa, by Christiaan Barnard. The heart's donor is a young woman who was killed in a car crash. The anti-rejection drugs given also made him susceptible to other illnesses, and he died 18 days later from pneumonia.



December 4

1993 America speed skate Dan Jansen skates the 500 meter race and sets a new world's record.

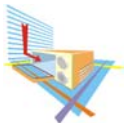
December 5

1945 Five US Navy torpedo planes take off from Florida on a routine mission over an area of the Atlantic known as the Bermuda Triangle. After reporting confusion, instrument failure,s and radio problems the planes vanished. The story cemented the legend of this area as being a place where ships and airplanes disappear without a trace.



December 6

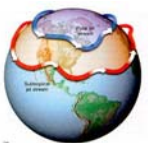
1945 British scientist Raytheon engineer, Percy Spencer, invents the microwave oven.



While working on something else, he observes that a candy bar in his pocket melts as he stands in front of a magnetron tube that had been switched on.

December 7

1934 Famed American aviator Wiley Post flies over Oklahoma and discovers the jet stream, a swift narrow current of air found seven or eight miles above the earth.



December 8

1941 One day after the surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, the United States formally enters World War II when Roosevelt addresses the Congress describing the previous day as "a day that shall live in infamy". Britain also follows suit and declares war on Japan.



December 9

1950 Harry Gold, who had confessed to having been a courier for a British scientist who stole top-secret atomic bomb information, was sentenced to thirty years in jail. He will later be linked to spies in the United States, the Rosenbergs.

December 10

1998 Researchers report the first complete genetic blueprint of an animal – a worm.

December 11

1967 The world's first supersonic airliner, the Concorde, is unveiled in France.

December 12

1925 The first motel, the Motor Inn, is opened in San Luis Obispo, California.



December 13

1910 American radio pioneer Lee DeForest arranges the first opera broadcast. Although few people had radio receivers, he arranged the broadcast of Enrico Caruso singing in New York.



December 14

1920 The first aircraft disaster involving a scheduled airliner takes place on a flight from London to Paris, France. Four are killed. The plane crashed into a house just after take off.

December 15

1964 Forty million people watch the premiere of Walt Disney's *Davy Crockett*. A craze for coonskin caps sweeps the nation.



December 16

1997 Approximately 700 TV viewers in Japan suffered epileptic-like spasms and nausea after watching a cartoon featuring bright flashing colors.



December 17

1969 Saying that there are not extraterrestrial UFOs, the Air Force closes its Project Blue Book.

December 18

1957 The Shippingport Atomic Power station in Pennsylvania becomes the first US nuclear facility to generate electricity.



December 19

1984 Great Britain signs an agreement committing to return Hong Kong to China. The pact guarantees a fifty year extension of Hong Kong's capitalist system.

December 20

1920 English born comedian Leslie Downes becomes an American citizen. He eventually becomes known as Bob Hope.



December 21

1937 Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs debuts. Walt Disney's animated company produced this first feature-length animated show.



December 22

1938 A coelacanth, a five foot long prehistoric fish thought to be extinct is caught off Cape Town, Africa. It was hailed as one of the greatest scientific discoveries of the century.



December 23



1947 American inventors Brattain and Dardeen first demonstrate a transistor at a meeting at Bell Laboratories. Later improved, it led to a Nobel prize in physics.

December 24

1942 The first surface to surface missile, the V-1 flying bomb (also known as the buzz bomb or doodlebug), was successfully tested in Germany. They wreaked devastation and terror when unleashed on England 18 months later.



December 25

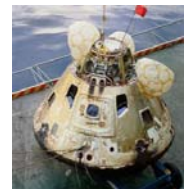
1914 German troops in WWI stopped firing and started to sing Christmas carols. At points along the fronts, soldiers from Russia, France, and Great Britain joined in. The "Christmas truce" was one of the last examples of the notion of chivalry in warfare.

December 26

1908 Jack Johnson becomes the first black man to win the world heavyweight title when he knocks out a Canadian in a fight in Australia.

December 27

1968 US Apollo 8, the first manned mission to the moon, returns safely to Earth, after an historic six day journey.



December 28

1945 The US Pledge of Allegiance is officially recognized by Congress.

December 29

1940 London, England, suffers its most devastating air raid when bombers from Germany start hundreds of fires. Firefighters ignore the bombs and save most of the city.



December 30

1916 Rasputin the Mad Monk is assassinated by relatives of Czar Nicholas II. Believed to have had an evil influence on the Czarina. He was poisoned, shot and beaten.



December 31 1993 Scientists looking to continue research stopped the destruction of the last samples of the smallpox virus, one of the world's most dreaded diseases. It was declared eradicated in 1977.



WHAT HAPPENED SINCE 1899 in January?

January 1

1902 The first public radio broadcast is made by US inventor Nathan Stubblefield in Murray, Kentucky.



1922 Drivers in British Columbia, Canada switch from the British system and begin driving on the right side of the road.

January 2

1974 U.S. President Richard Nixon signs a federal law forcing states to set maximum speed limits of 55 m.p.h. Why?

January 3

1924 Two years after British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamen in Egypt, he finds its greatest treasure: a stone sarcophagus that contains a solid gold coffin with a mummy of the king.



January 4



1999 Europe switches to a new unified currency called the Euro in eleven European Union nations.

January 5

1933 Construction begins on the Golden Gate Bridge spanning the entrance to San Francisco Bay. It quickly becomes an American landmark.



January 6

1942 During WWII President Roosevelt announces to the world the largest armaments production in US history: 45,000 planes, 45,000 tanks, 20,000 anti-aircraft guns, and 8 million tons in new ships the first year of production. Such large-scale production is possible due to the number of women who entered the factories to replace the men who have gone to war. Roosevelt releases the figures to give the Japanese and Nazis a little idea of what they were up against.

January 7

1931 President Herbert Hoover's investigative committee releases a report about the Great Depression: 5 million are unemployed. But by the next year, that figure has climbed to 13 million.

January 8

1946 The Nuremberg War Crimes Trials after WWII begin trying Hermann Goering and Joachim von Ribbentrop. Both are condemned to death, but Goering commits suicide by poison shortly before his scheduled execution.





January 9

1960 Construction begins on the controversial Aswan High Dam on the Nile River. The waters behind the dam will flood archaeological sites, and some will be moved.

January 10

1901 Texas strikes oil! The Spindletop gusher, as it is named, marks the beginning of the American oil industry. Soon prices of petroleum-based fuels will drop, and gasoline becomes an increasingly affordable and practical power source. With this discovery, internal combustion engines begin to replace steam and battery power as the power source of choice. The US automobile industry will now rapidly change the face of the country.

January 11

1940 Benjamin Davis becomes the first African-American general in the US Army.



January 12

1996 Troops from both the United States and Russia arrive in Bosnia to help with peacekeeping in the countries' first joint military action since WWII.

January 13

1918 Finland and Russia adopt the modern Gregorian calendar.

January 14

1992 Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web, releases the first web browser on the internet.

January 15

1991 The United Nations deadline for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait expires at midnight, and within hours, fighter aircraft launch bombing missions from Saudi Arabia and aircraft carriers in the Persian Gulf.



January 16

1919 The 18th amendment to the Constitution, prohibits the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors, and Prohibition becomes the law of the land.

January 17

1950 An almost perfect theft from a Brinks Armored Car Depot in Boston, Massachusetts takes place. The thieves steal more than \$2,000,000 and are caught only days before the statute of limitations expires for the crime.



January 18

1943 The United States institutes a wartime ban of the sale of presliced bread to reduce metal demand by bakeries.



January 19

1955 President Dwight D. Eisenhower holds the first presidential press conference filmed for TV and newsreels. NBC does the filming and then shares it with other networks.

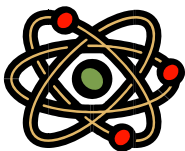
January 20

1961 John F. Kennedy becomes the youngest President in US History as well as the first Catholic ever elected. 87 year old Robert Frost recites his poem "The Gift Outright" for the inauguration. One of the lines from Kennedy's speech includes "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."



January 21

1977 One day after taking office, President Jimmy Carter grants pardon to thousands of American men who dodged the draft during the Vietnam War. The pardon allows them to come out of hiding without fear of prosecution.



January 22

1939 Scientists split a uranium atom for the first time in the cyclotron at New York City's Columbia University. Their work will lead to the Manhattan Project and the atom bomb that ends WWII.

January 23

1977 The miniseries *Roots* debuts on ABC. It becomes the single most-watched program in American history. The show traces four generations of an African-American family based on Alex Haley's account of his own family.

January 24

1984 The first Macintosh computers go on sale. Price: \$2,495.



January 25

1974 South African surgeon Dr. Christian Barnard conducts the first human heart transplant.



January 26

1988 Aborigines in Australia begin the "year of mourning," a protest of the nation's founding. This day marks the bicentennial celebration of Australia Day.

January 27

1967 A launch-pad fire during Apollo program tests at Cape Canaveral, Florida, kills astronauts Roger B. Chafee, Edward H. White II, and Virgil "Gus" Grissom.

January 28

1986 The space shuttle Challenger lifts off in Florida; 73 seconds later it explodes, killing everyone including the first teacher in space, Christa McAuliffe.





January 29

1979 President Jimmy Carter and Chinese Communist leader Deng Xiaoping meet to sign new accords reversing decades of hostility between the two countries.



January 30

1942 The last cars to be produced in America roll off the assembly lines. WWII restrictions shut down the commercial automobile industry, and the auto manufacturers are retooled for the production of military gear.

January 31

1971 Apollo 14 is launched to the moon. Alan Shepard becomes the fifth man to walk on the moon and celebrates by hitting golf balls from the lunar surface.



1990 The Soviet Union gets its first McDonald's—in Moscow. The burgers cost several days wages, but throngs of people line up anyhow.





WHAT HAPPENED SINCE 1899 in February?

February 1

1935 The BBC announces that it will launch the world's first public television service later in the year. However, a German service becomes the first to air on March 22.

February 2

1935 A lie detector machine is used for the first time in Portage, Wisconsin, by its inventor, Leonard Keeler.



February 3

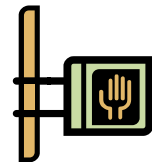
1953 French oceanographer Jacques-Yves Cousteau publishes *The Silent World*, his most famous and lasting book. Cousteau champions the cause of the oceans, and is also the inventor of SCUBA gear.

February 4

1915 Dr. Joseph Goldberger begins to experiment on prison volunteers in Jackson, Mississippi, in order to find the cause of the disease pellagra. Pellagra is killing thousands every year in the United States. His study showed it is caused by poor diet, and launches the "biological age of nutrition research", which links certain diseases with a lack of essential vitamins.

February 5

1952 New York City erects the first "Don't Walk" sign as a response to pedestrian fatalities in Manhattan.



February 6

1952 Princess Elizabeth, daughter of English King George VI, becomes queen of the United Kingdom at age 26, upon her father's death at age 54.

February 7

1984 American astronaut Bruce McCandless becomes the first man to ever float freely in space untethered. He exits the space shuttle Challenger and uses a jet-powered backpack of his own design.

February 8

1998 John Sherman of Worcester, Massachusetts, patents the first machine that folds and gums envelopes. His invention cut the cost of producing a thousand envelopes from 60 cents to 8 cents.





February 9

1950 Wisconsin Republican senator Joseph McCarthy waves a paper in Wheeling, West Virginia, and claims it is a list of more than 200 “known Communists” working in the US State Department. He ignites a “witch hunt” for Communists that sweeps the nation, including Hollywood.

February 10

1962 American spy pilot Francis Gary Powers is released in Berlin by the Soviets in exchange for a Soviet spy, a senior KGB agent named Rudolf Abel. Power’s U-2 spy plane had been shot down in 1960.



February 11

1990 South African anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela is released from prison after spending 27 years behind bars.

February 12

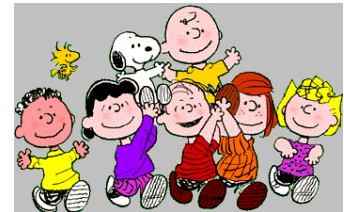
1996 More than 2,000 people carrying paper doves hold a vigil for continued peace in Belfast, the main city of Northern Ireland, following an IRA bomb that has ended a 17-month cease-fire.



February 13

1959 The first Barbie doll, dressed in a black and white bathing suit, makes its debut at the American Toy Fair in New York City.

2000 The last original *Peanuts* comic strip appears as a signed farewell from its originator, American cartoonist Charles M. Schulz. He died the previous day of colon cancer.



February 14

1962 First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy hosts the first televised tour of the White House.



February 15

1965 Canada first flies its new national flag, which is adorned with a prominent red maple leaf.



February 16

1937 A DuPont Company chemist, Wallace Carothers, patents nylon as well as the process for making the material.



February 17

1911 Cadillac introduces the first car with a self-starting engine, an attractive alternative to Ford's hand-cranked starter—which frequently kicks back and causes broken jaws and ribs.

1972 The Volkswagen Beetle surpasses the Ford Model T as the most heavily produced car in history, with over 15 million produced.



February 18

2001 American stock-car racing legend Dale Earnhardt dies in a crash on the last lap of the Daytona 500.

February 19

1942 US President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs an order which will be used to relocate more than 110,000 Japanese Americans from their homes on the West Coast to remote internment camps around the country.

February 20

1943 A new cinder cone volcano erupts from a Mexican farm field. It buries two neighboring towns in lava and ash and grows to 1,475 feet within a year. It is named Paricutin.



February 21

1965 African-American nationalist and religious leader Malcolm X is assassinated by rival Black Muslims while giving a speech in New York City.



February 22

1972 The underdog US hockey team defeats the defending champion Soviet team at the XIII Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid, NY, in one of the most dramatic upsets in Olympic History.



February 23

1954 Children in Pittsburgh, PA, receive the first mass inoculation of the Salk polio vaccine.

February 24

1917 Great Britain releases a coded message from Germany to its ambassador in Mexico that suggests an alliance between Mexico and Germany if the US enters WWI. As a reward, Mexico would get Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. Known as the "Zimmerman note," it helped turn US public opinion firmly against Germany.

February 25

1938 Miami's first drive-in movie theater opens. The drive-in craze will reach its peak in 1963, when 3500 theaters will be in operation across the United States.



Monthly Activities- What Happened Since 1899

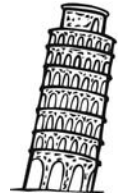


February 26

1903 Alexander Winton sets the first Daytona Beach speed record: 65 mph for a full mile.

February 27

1964 Italy announces that it is looking for advice on how to save the Leaning Tower of Pisa from collapse. It is already leaning 17 feet off center. No good answers will be found until 1999 when successful restoration begins.



February 28

1982 The J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu, California, receives a \$1.2 billion from its late founder, making it the mostly richly endowed museum in the world.

February 29

1988 A Nazi document is discovered that implicates Kurt Waldheim, the Austrian president and former U.N. Secretary General, in the WWII deportations of Jews.



J. Paul Getty Museum



WHAT HAPPENED SINCE 1899 in March?



March 1

1932 The infant son of Charles Lindbergh, the American aviation hero, is kidnapped from his home in New Jersey and a ransom note is left behind. He is eventually found dead.

March 2

1949 A US Air Force crew completes the first nonstop flight around the world in an American B-50 Super Fortress which is refueled in flight several times.

March 3

1931 Francis Scott Key's patriotic song "The Star-Spangled Banner" becomes the official national anthem of the United States.



March 4

1902 The AAA – American Automobile Association – is founded to address the problems that commonly plague motorists. It is still in operation today.

March 5

1946 Former Prime Minister Winston Churchill makes his famous Iron Curtain speech, which condemns the Soviet Union's policies in Europe and is considered an opening volley in the Cold War.

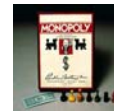


March 6

1899 One of the most common drugs in household cabinets is patented in Germany. It is synthesized from a compound in the bark of a willow tree. A Bayer employee developed the drug to help his arthritic father. Bayer creates the name "aspirin" but loses the rights to it.

March 7

1933 The board game *Monopoly* is trademarked by an American businessman. Its sales make him a millionaire.



March 8

1957 Egypt reopens the Suez Canal after the Suez Crisis which had led to an invasion and occupation of the canal region by British, French, and Israeli troops.

March 9

1974 A Japanese soldier is coaxed from the woods. Hiroo Onada, 51, finally surrenders after hiding in the Philippines for 29 years after WWII. He did not know the war was over. (As of January 2008 he is still living.)



March 10

1964 The first Ford Mustang is produced. The sporty American car is released in mid-April and is an enormous success.



March 11

1918 The Spanish Influenza hits the United States. It kills 600,000 people in the country and nearly 40,000,000 world wide. It takes a higher death toll than WWI.

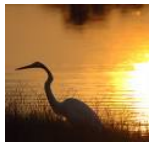


March 12

1901 Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish immigrant who made a fortune in steel, gives away \$5.2 million dollars to build libraries in New York City.

March 13

1938 CBS launches the European Roundup, an American radio news program that covers events leading up to WWII.



March 14

1903 By executive order, President Teddy Roosevelt establishes the United States' first National Bird Sanctuary on Pelican Island, Florida.

March 15

1917 During the February Revolution, Czar Nicholas II, ruler of Russia since 1894 is forced to abdicate the throne. Later, he and his family will be executed.

March 16

1926 First liquid fuel rocket launch. American physicist Robert H. Goddard launches a ten foot rocket fueled by liquid oxygen and gasoline at Auburn, Massachusetts.

March 17

1973 American naval pilot John McCain, now a US Senator, is released from a North Vietnamese prison camp after five years in captivity.

March 18

1965 Russian cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov pulls himself through an airlock and becomes the first man to float outside an orbiting space craft.



March 19

1916 Eight Curtiss-Jenny planes of the First Aero Squadron of the United States take off from New Mexico in the first combat air mission in US history. Their goal was to help American troops capture Mexican bandit Pancho Villa.

March 20

2003 American cruise missiles and planes open a second war in twelve years against Iraq with an attack against targets in Baghdad.

March 21



1965 The Selma to Montgomery March begins. Attempting to get African-American voting rights, 3200 civil rights demonstrators led by Martin Luther King Jr. begin an historic march. US Army and National Guard troops were on hand to provide safe passage for the Alabama freedom march who had twice been turned back by state police.



March 22

1960 The laser is patented by American scientists.

March 23

1933 The German Reichstag and Reichsrat pass the Enabling Act which gives Hitler's Nazi government dictatorial powers.



March 24

1989 Exxon Valdez runs aground creating the worst oil spill in US territory. Owned and operated by Exxon, it runs aground on a reef off southern Alaska. It creates havoc with the environment. Attempts to contain the massive spill were unsuccessful. Oil spreads over 100 miles, polluting 700 miles of coastline.

March 25

1911 Young garment workers, locked in the *Triangle Shirtwaist* building in New York City, lose their lives in a devastating fire. It galvanizes the public to press for factory reform.

March 26

1992 Cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev returns to earth after 313 days aboard the Mir Space Center. He lands in a new country. While he was in space, the Soviet Union had ceased to exist.

March 27

1905 For the first time, fingerprint evidence is used to solve a murder case.



March 28

1979 The worst nuclear power accident in US history begins at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania when a pressure valve fails to close and the reactor core nearly melts down. More than 100,000 people flee the area.

March 29

1912 English explorer Robert Scott writes his last entry in Antarctica, as he lay freezing and starving to death on his return from the South Pole.



March 30

1981 President Ronald Reagan is shot by a mentally disturbed John Hinckley. Although severely wounded, Reagan jokes as he is taken to surgery.

March 31

1909 In Belfast, Ireland, heel blocks are laid to begin the construction of the huge passenger liner, the *Titanic*.





WHAT HAPPENED SINCE 1899 in April?



April 1

1999 The Inuit of the Eastern Arctic gain control of their own homeland as Canada establishes a territory Nunavut, a vast tract nearly as large as Alaska and California combined.

April 2

1917 Suffragist and pacifist Jeannette Rankin the first woman ever elected to the United States Congress, takes her seat in Congress as a Representative from Montana.



April 3

1968 Martin Luther King, Jr., gives his last sermon in Memphis, TN, which includes the quote "I've been to the mountaintop, I've looked over and I've seen the promised land." The next day he was assassinated.

April 4

1949 NATO, the North American Treaty Organization, is established by 12 western nations.



April 5

1923 Firestone introduces tires with inflatable inner tubes. These were known as "balloon tires" and gave better handling and a softer ride, but also ushered in the era of "flat tires".

April 6

1909 American polar explorer Robert Perry and his five men reach what he believes to be the North Pole. Long after Perry's death, navigational errors in his log will be discovered, indicating that his flag is planted thirty miles short of his goal.

April 7

1994 Rwanda armed forces kill Belgian peace-keeping officers in a successful effort to thwart international intervention in their planned genocide of the Tutsis. Hutus murdered up to 800,000 innocent civilians. This minority group received no assistance from the international community even though this was the worst case of genocide since WWII.



April 8

1910 The Motordome, the first motor speedway with a board track, opens in California. On the mile long steeply banked track, a daredevil could reach up to 100 mph with his hands off the steering wheel.

April 9

1942 American general Jonathan Wainwright surrenders at Bataan to the Japanese. His force of Philippine and American civilians, and American soldiers, immediately are forced on a 55 mile starvation trek that became known as the Bataan Death March. It killed at least 6,000.



April 10

1963 American submarine Thresher, the first of a new class of nuclear subs, sinks during tests off Cape Cod. All aboard were lost, the reason it sank was never found.





April 11

1985 The American Third Army liberates Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany. Second only to Auschwitz in the horrors imposed, among those saved was Elie Weisel, who later wins a Nobel Peace Prize.



April 12

1988 Harvard scientists win a patent for the Harvard Oncomouse, a genetically engineered rodent used for cancer research.

April 13

1997 Tiger Woods, 21, wins the Masters Tournament in golf. It was his first win in golf's four tournaments, and the greatest performance by a golfer in more than a century. By June he will be ranked #1 in the world.

April 14

1916 After five months on ice floes, shipwrecked polar explorer Ernest Shackleton and his men land their small boats on Elephant Island.



April 15

1923 A new medicine for diabetes becomes commercially available for use: insulin.

1964 The nearly 18 mile Chesapeake Bay Bridge, the longest in the world, opens.



April 16

1943 In Basel, Switzerland, chemist Albert Hoffman, accidentally consumes LSD, a synthetic drug he had created as part of his medicinal research. Inadvertently, he became the first LSD tripper.

April 17

1961 The ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion begins. Cuban exiles, backed by the United States, waded ashore with the goal of toppling Fidel Castro.

April 18

1906 The Great San Francisco Earthquake rocks the city and bay area, killing hundreds, toppling numerous buildings, and touching off a devastating four day fire. The quake approached magnitude 8.0 and could be felt in Cape Town, South Africa.



April 19

1994 The Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma is bombed and collapses, killing 168 people, including children in a daycare. Timothy McVeigh is later executed for the crime.



April 20

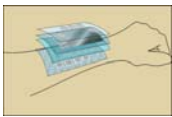
1902 French scientists Marie and Pierre Curie successfully isolate radioactive radium salts from pitchblende.

April 21

1994 American astronomer Alexander Wolszczan announces the discovery of three planets orbiting a star in the constellation Virgo.

April 22

1915 German forces use poison gas- chlorine gas- for the first time on the Western Front against the French.



April 23

1981 The first transplant of artificial skin was performed in Boston, MA. It promises a breakthrough in the treatment of burns.

April 24

1962 The first coast-to-coast broadcast by satellite takes place.



April 25

1901 New York becomes the first American state to require license plates for cars and issues a total of 954 sets.

April 26

1986 The world's worst nuclear power plant accident occurs at Chernobyl in the Soviet Union, when an explosion blows the lid off a reactor vessel. Millions of acres of forest and farmland are contaminated.

April 27

1995 U.S. Airforce Space Command announces that the Global Positioning System Satellite Area is in position and fully functional.



April 28

1947 Thor Heyerdahl leaves Peru aboard his balsa raft Kon Tiki, bound for Polynesia. He covers 4300 miles in 101 days and proves that contact could have been made between South America and Polynesia contact.



April 29

1992 An all-white suburban Los Angeles jury acquit the police in the beating of black Rodney King, setting off three days of rioting.

April 30

1945 In his underground bunker, Adolf Hitler commits suicide by shooting himself. His body and that of his wife were then cremated.



WHAT HAPPENED SINCE 1899 in May?



May 1

1999 Thirty-eight years after it sunk, the *Liberty Bell 7*, one of the Mercury space capsules, was found on the bottom of the sea. The capsule had sunk rapidly after reaching the ocean, almost drowning the astronaut Gus Grissom.

May 2

1994 In the first freely democratic elections in South Africa, Nelson Mandela is elected President.

May 3

1944 The United States ends the rationing of most grades of meat, a policy put in place to conserve supplies when WWII began.

May 4

1961 A group of freedom riders leaves Washington, DC, for New Orleans to challenge segregation laws on buses and bus terminals.



May 5

1994 Michael Fay, an American teenager, charged with vandalism, is caned on the buttocks as punishment in Singapore.

May 6

1937 The dirigible *Hindenburg* bursts into flames in New Jersey. It is still the largest aircraft to have ever flown.



May 7

1915 The unarmed Cunard liner *Lusitania* is torpedoed and sunk by a German U-boat with the loss of over a thousand lives.

May 8

1973 Armed members of the American Indian Movement surrender to Federal authorities after a 71 day siege at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, the site of the infamous massacre of 300 Sioux in 1890. The massacre was the final battle of the 19th century Indian wars.

May 9

1995 U.S. returns the first boatload of Cuban refugees to their homeland, a move protested by the Cuban-American community.



May 10

1924 J. Edgar Hoover becomes the Director of the FBI. He remains in office until his death in 1972.



May 11

1946 The first packages from a relief agency to Europe arrive in France. The CARE packages were a major source of supplies to rehabilitate Europe.

1989 Kenya seeks a worldwide ban on the ivory trade in order to save the elephants.



May 12

1949 The Soviet Union lifts an eleven month blockade of West Berlin, Germany. The United States and Great Britain had already made it ineffective with a massive airlift of supplies to the citizens of Berlin.

May 13

1938 American musician Louis Armstrong records *When the Saints Go Marching In*. The song remains a New Orleans jazz favorite.

May 14

1948 In Tel Aviv, David Ben Gurion, proclaims the state of Israel now exists. The new nation, the first Jewish state in 2,000 years, ends British colonial rule.



May 15

1942 Gasoline rationing goes into effect in 17 states as an economy measure during WWII. Sales were limited to three gallons a week for nonessential vehicles.

May 16

1975 The first woman reaches the summit of Mt. Everest. She is Junko Tabei of Japan.

May 17

1954 *Brown vs. the Board of Education* becomes a major civil rights victory. The Supreme Court hands down a unanimous decision ruling that racial segregation in public education facilities is unconstitutional. It was argued by Thurgood Marshall. "Separate but equal" is now done away with.



May 18

1980 Mt. St. Helens in Washington state erupts. It is a huge explosion and covers 210,000 square miles of wilderness.

May 19

1977 In Nairobi, Kenya, a ban is placed on big game hunting in an effort to conserve wildlife.



May 20

1916 American artist Norman Rockwell has his first *Saturday Evening Post* cover published. It shows a boy having to watch his friends play ball while he has to babysit.

May 21

1932 American aviator Amelia Earhart lands in Ireland to become the first female to fly nonstop across the Atlantic only five years after Lindbergh's flight.

Monthly Activities- What Happened Since 1899



May 22

1966 Bill Cosby wins the Emmy for best actor for *I Spy*. He was the first black to star in a regular dramatic TV series.



May 23

1949 Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin lifts the Berlin blockade.

May 24

1941 Germany's largest battleship *Bismarck* sinks Britain's largest battleship the *Hood* near Iceland.

May 25

1977 The American space fantasy *Star Wars* opens.



May 26

1977 New York City police arrest the human fly George Willig, but not before he manages to scale 110 stories of the World Trade Center.

May 27

1972 Richard Nixon meets Brezhnev in Moscow to sign the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty, the most far-reaching attempt yet to control nuclear weapons.

May 28

1984 Ronald Reagan leads a service for an unknown soldier from the Vietnam War. The remains were later identified and removed for reburial.



May 29

1943 Norman Rockell's portrait of *Rosie the Riveter*, a tribute to women working on the home front, is published.

May 30

1908 Mel Blanc is born in California. He becomes the voice of beloved cartoon characters such as Daffy Duck, Bugs Bunny, and other Warner Brothers characters.



May 31

1977 The Trans-Alaska oil pipeline is completed.





WHAT HAPPENED SINCE 1899 in June?

Only one week of June has been included.

June 1

1900 The Boxers conquer a large city in China, targeting Christians and foreigners.

June 2

1953 Queen Elizabeth II is crowned in West Minster Abbey as Queen of England. It was the first British event of its kind to be televised.



June 3

1937 The Duke of Windsor, Edward VIII, marries Wallace Simpson, after abdicating the throne for love of her.

June 4

1940 On this day, the last of 340,000 British troops were evacuated from Dunkirk, France, where they had been driven back by the Nazis. The fleet that rescued them contained even little fishing boats driven by their owners. It became a national triumph.



June 5

1968 Bobby Kennedy is shot after winning the California Presidential primary.

June 6

1912 The largest 20th century volcanic eruption alters the configuration of the Katmia Peninsula on the Gulf of Alaska.

June 7

1997 The United States issued a report that links nutrition and consumption of certain foods to different kinds of cancer.





Resources

Internet:

To find additional happenings on a certain date, simply type in the month and day to find lists of these things. Although not to be taken as a definitive source, Wikipedia can be a good place to start.

Book sources include:

Today in History, A Day-By-Day Review of World Events, published by D K, NY for the History Channel, 2001

This is an excellent book with illustrations that covers events from around the world throughout recorded history.

The Teacher's Calendar, McGraw-Hill, 2006

The Teacher's Calendar is published every year. It is a very large book that includes holidays and birthdays as well as historic events.

2007 Chase's Calendar of Events: The Ultimate Gotgo Guide for Special Days, Weeks, and Months, McGraw-Hill, 2007

