

**Tuesday, February 1**

# ON THIS DAY



▲ **2003:** The space shuttle *Columbia* broke apart as it began its descent to Cape Canaveral, Florida, killing all seven astronauts on board

**1650:** Rene Descartes, regarded as the father of modern philosophy, died

**1958:** Egypt and Syria united to form a new state called the United Arab Republic; the union lasted until 1961

**1977:** The Pompidou Centre in Paris, designed by Richard Rogers and Renzo Piano, was opened

**2010:** President Obama scrapped NASA's bid to return to the moon and the *Ares 1* rocket – the planned successor to the space shuttle