



Today in History

August 24, 79

▲ The long-dormant Mount Vesuvius erupted, destroying the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum and killing around 20,000 people

1954: The Communist Party was outlawed in the United States

1968: France exploded a hydrogen bomb in the South Pacific, becoming the world's fifth nuclear power

1995: The computer industry prepared to launch Microsoft Windows 95, estimated at £200 million, the most expensive launch to that date

2006: Pluto was stripped of its status as a planet, recategorised instead as a "dwarf planet"