



# Today in History

*December 12, 2012*

▲ A year of celebrations begins in France to mark the 850th anniversary of the cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris, one of the largest churches in the world

**1792:** Ludwig van Beethoven, aged 22, noted in his diary that he had enough money for his first lesson with Franz Joseph Haydn

**1955:** British engineer Christopher Cockerell patented the first prototype of the hovercraft

**1982:** Britain's Greenham Common airbase was ringed by 20,000 women protesting against U.S. Cruise missiles

**2002:** North Korea announced it was reactivating its nuclear facilities