



## Today in History

*September 15, 2008*

▲ The 158-year-old Wall Street bank Lehman Brothers declared itself bankrupt, triggering a collapse of major financial institutions

**1821:** Independence was proclaimed for Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador

**1928:** A chance observation by Scottish scientist Alexander Fleming led to his discovery of penicillin

**1983:** Israeli Prime Minister Menachim Begin resigned

**2007:** Melting sea ice in the Arctic opened up the Northwest Passage, clearing a historically impassable route between Europe and Asia