



## Today in History

*January 26, 1905*

▲ The Cullinan diamond, the world's largest at 3,106 carats, was mined in South Africa. Two of the nine large gem-quality stones cut from it are pictured above

**1784:** Benjamin Franklin revealed that he would have preferred the turkey as the symbol of America

**1911:** German composer Richard Strauss's opera *Der Rosenkavalier* was first performed in Dresden

**2009:** Iceland's coalition government collapsed in the wake of the country's deep financial crisis

**2010:** Filmmaker James Cameron's sci-fi blockbuster *Avatar* became the highest-grossing film of all time