

A portrait of Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman in space, wearing a white Soviet space helmet with the red Cyrillic letters 'СССР' (USSR) on the side. The background is a red flag with a yellow hammer and sickle and a star. The text 'Today in History' is overlaid in white.

Today in History

March 6, 1937

▲ **Russian cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova, who in 1963 became the first woman to fly into space, aboard Vostok 6, was born. She turns 80 today**

1987: The ferry Herald of Free Enterprise capsized off the Belgian port of Zeebrugge, killing 193 people

1992: The Michelangelo computer virus struck thousands of personal computers worldwide

2007: Some 120 Shia pilgrims were killed in a double suicide bombing in the central Iraqi town of Hilla

2011: The arrest of young boys over anti-government graffiti in Deraa led to the outbreak of Syria's civil war