



## Today in History

*December 18, 1737*

▲ Italian violin-maker Antonio Stradivari died. His surviving violins, noted for their astonishing sound quality, are still recognised as the world's best

**1972:** The U.S. began its heaviest bombing of North Vietnam to date

**1997:** Kim Dae Jung was elected president of South Korea

**1997:** The scientists who cloned Dolly the sheep introduced Polly the lamb, genetically altered to treat haemophilia

**2009:** The Spanish region of Catalonia voted to ban bullfighting, a move campaigners claimed could mark the beginning of the end of the country's controversial sport