



Today in History

December 21, 2004

▲ **The super-sized Boeing Delta IV Heavy blasted off on its maiden flight, launching a new era in heavy lift capability for the U.S. space programme**

1846: The first surgical operation in Britain under anaesthesia, using ether, was performed in London

1891: The first game of basketball, devised by a Canadian physical education instructor, was played

1979: A peace agreement on the future of Rhodesia was signed at the Lancaster House conference in London

2004: NASA reported finding dozens of recently formed galaxies, possibly resembling our own Milky Way in its youth