



Today in History

February 18, 1745

▲ **Count Alessandro Volta** was born. The Italian physicist, after whom a unit of electricity was named, invented the first electric battery in 1800

1865: Union forces finally took the city of Charleston, South Carolina, after a two-year siege during the U.S. Civil War

1930: Astronomer Clyde Tombaugh discovered the planet Pluto, now reclassified as a “dwarf planet”

1977: Enterprise made its maiden test voyage atop a Boeing 747, paving the way for the space shuttle programme

2005: A burst of light energy, greater than the total emitted by the sun in 150,000 years, was detected