



Today in History

April 12, 1961

▲ **Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space, making a single orbit of the Earth in the spacecraft Vostok I. The flight lasted 108 minutes**

1861: The American Civil War began when the Confederate Army attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina

1981: NASA launched its first reusable space shuttle, Columbia

1996: Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Towers were declared the world's tallest buildings, a record they held until 2004

2011: Japan raised the accident rating at the Fukushima nuclear power plant to Level 7, the same as Chernobyl