



Today in History

October 4, 1976

▲ The United States reinstated the death penalty, since when over 1,500 people have been executed, more than half in the three states of Texas, Oklahoma and Virginia

1675: Dutch astronomer Christian Huygens patented a pocket watch

1952: The first external heart pacemaker, to control the body's heartbeat, was fitted

1994: St Petersburg's Hermitage Museum agreed to show more than 70 French Impressionist paintings seized by Soviet troops after WWII

1996: A volcano under Iceland's Vatnajökull glacier, Europe's largest ice sheet, began to erupt