



October 15, 1492

▲ **Christopher Columbus** noted in his journal that native Caribbean islanders habitually smoked dry leaves. It was the first recorded reference to tobacco

1581: The Ballet Comique de la Reine, often considered to be the first major ballet, was staged in Paris

2003: China launched its first manned space mission, Shenzhou 5

2010: The Gotthard Base Tunnel in the Swiss Alps became the world's longest railway tunnel

2016: The 197 Parties to the Montreal Protocol approved an amendment to phase out hydrofluorocarbons to protect the ozone layer