



# Today in History

*March 30, 1989*

▲ The imposing new entrance of the Louvre Museum, a dramatic glass pyramid designed by Chinese-American architect I.M. Pei, was opened

**1842:** The first surgical operation using ether as an anaesthetic was carried out by a physician in rural Georgia

**1867:** The United States purchased Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million. It became a U.S. state in 1959

**1979:** Iran voted in favour of establishing an Islamic Republic after the overthrow of the Shah

**1987:** Vincent van Gogh's painting, *Sunflowers*, was sold at auction in London for £24.75 million (\$39.7m)