



Today in History

December 25, 1492

▲ The Santa Maria, flagship of Christopher Columbus, ran aground off Haiti. A fort built from its timbers was the first Spanish settlement in the New World

1497: Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama discovered Natal, South Africa

1642: British mathematician Sir Isaac Newton, the founder of modern physics, was born

1741: Anders Celsius devised the centigrade temperature scale in which 0°C is the freezing point of water

2002: Iran and Russia agreed to speed up completion of a nuclear power plant in southern Iran despite U.S. opposition to the accord