

A sepia-toned illustration of Galileo Galilei sitting on a bench, looking through a large telescope mounted on a tripod. He is holding a scroll in his left hand. The background shows a checkered floor and a building with arches.

Today in History

January 7, 1610

▲ **Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei first sighted Jupiter's four largest satellite moons, using the telescope he had developed the previous year**

1927: The Harlem Globetrotters, famous for on-court clowning, played their first basketball game on the road

1990: The Leaning Tower of Pisa closed to tourists for the first time, to undergo work to reduce its tilt

2003: Christmas was celebrated as a national holiday in Egypt, an almost wholly Muslim country, for the first time

2008: The war crimes trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor began in The Hague