



# Today in History

*May 8, 1984*

▲ The Thames Barrier, built to protect London from flooding, was opened. When raised into position its 10 steel gates stand as high as a five-storey building

**1794:** French chemist Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier, the first person to identify oxygen, was guillotined in Paris

**1924:** Afrikaans became the official language of South Africa

**1978:** Reinhold Messner and Peter Habeler became the first climbers to scale Mount Everest without using supplementary oxygen equipment

**2007:** Israeli archaeologists announced that they had discovered the tomb of King Herod