



Today in History

June 16, 1884

▲ The world's first modern rollercoaster opened at Coney Island in New York. It offered passengers a 6mph ride for the price of five cents

1948: Chinese bandits carried out the first hijack of an aircraft, on a Cathay Pacific flight to Hong Kong

1961: Russian dancer Rudolf Nureyev asked for political asylum while visiting Paris with the Kirov Ballet

1999: Nelson Mandela stepped down as South Africa's first black president. He was succeeded by Thabo Mbeki

2004: Iran warned it could develop nuclear weapons if the IAEA criticised it for lack of cooperation