

GN46466 On this day in history Week49 December 1-7



Today in History

December 1, 2023

▲ Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court, died aged 93. Appointed by Ronald Reagan in 1981, she served on the court for 24 years

1959: The Antarctic Treaty, intended to preserve the region for scientific research, was signed

1991: The people of Ukraine voted by a margin to become independent

2009: The Treaty of Lisbon amended the European Union

2018: Protesters in Paris over the "gilets jaunes" movement

Picture: Getty Images



Today in History

December 2, 1989

▲ U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev declared the end of the Cold War, hailing their first summit as a new era in U.S.-Soviet relations

1954: Taiwan and the U.S. signed a mutual defence treaty

1979: Iranian electors voted in favour of a new constitution



Today in History

December 3, 1984

▲ A toxic gas leak at the Union Carbide pesticide plant near Bhopal, India, killed over 3,700 people. It remains the world's worst industrial accident

1992: The first ever text message was sent by a test engineer over the Vodafone network in the UK



Today in History

December 4, 1954

▲ The first Burger King restaurant opened in Miami, Florida. By the early 21st century, Burger King claimed to have about 14,000 stores in around 100 countries

1829: Suttee, the practice of burning a widow to death on her husband's funeral pyre, was abolished in India

1915: The U.S. State of Georgia

Following the American Civil War, the state of Georgia passed laws that restricted the rights of African Americans, including the right to own land and to serve on juries. These laws were part of a broader effort to maintain white supremacy and control over the state's economy and society.

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Today in History

December 5, 1872

▲ The American brigantine Mary Celeste was found abandoned, with its cargo intact, drifting midway between the Azores and the Portuguese coast

1484: Pope Innocent VIII issued a papal bull giving the Inquisition explicit authority to prosecute witchcraft

1594: Flemish cartographer Gerhardus Mercator, known for the map projection that bears his name, died

1952: London's Great Smog, a toxic mix of fog and smoke emissions, claimed around 4,000 lives

2013: Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first black president and an anti-apartheid icon, died at age 95

Picture: Getty Images

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Today in History

December 6, 2023

▲ Taylor Swift's Eras tour became the first to gross \$1 billion, as she was named Time's person of the year. By the end of the tour Eras is expected to gross over \$2bn

1774: Austria became the first nation to establish a state education system

1947: The Everglades National Park, now a World Heritage Site visited by more than one million people every year, was dedicated in southern Florida

1971: India recognised Bangladesh as an independent state from Pakistan

2006: Photographs taken by NASA's Mars Global Surveyor suggested the presence of liquid water on Mars

Picture: Getty Images

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Today in History

December 7, 1941

▲ Japanese planes attacked the U.S. Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, killing over 2,400 people and leading the United States to declare war on Japan

1924: Mario Soares, three-times prime minister of Portugal, was born

1934: The jet stream, bands of strong winds high above the earth, was supposedly discovered by Wiley Post on a test flight into the stratosphere

1999: The peer-to-peer file-sharing service Napster was taken to court

2010: Julian Assange, founder of the whistleblowing website WikiLeaks, was arrested in London over alleged sexual misconduct in Sweden

Picture: Getty Images

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