

GN46467 On this day in history Week50 December 8-14



Today in History

December 8, 1864

▲ The Clifton Suspension Bridge, one of the world's oldest surviving iron suspension bridges, designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, was opened in Bristol, England

1949: Chinese Nationalist forces under Chiang Kai-Shek fled to Formosa, now known as Taiwan

1974: Greece voted in a referendum against retaining the monarchy

1989: The European Social Charter in Strasbourg and the Social Charter of Britain dissolved

2009: Space.com unveiled its first commercial satellite

Picture: Getty Images



Today in History

December 9, 1934

▲ Oscar-winning British actress Judi Dench was born. A star of stage and screen for 70 years, she reached mass audiences as spy chief M in seven James Bond films

1905: The separation of church and state in France established secularism but guaranteed freedom of worship

1970: The WHO certified that



Today in History

December 10, 1919

▲ Australian aviators Ross and Keith Smith completed the first flight from England to Australia in their Vickers Vimy biplane, a converted WWI bomber

1979: Mother Teresa of Calcutta was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her work with the destitute

1980: Czechoslovakia's president



Today in History

December 11, 1719

▲ The first recorded sighting in the United States of the aurora borealis occurred in New England. The oldest known auroral citing was written in China in 2600BC

1769: The Venetian blind, using wooden slats to control the amount of light let into a room, was patented

1910: The first ever first



Today in History

December 12, 1792

▲ Ludwig van Beethoven, aged 22 and newly arrived in Vienna, noted in his diary he had 15 ducats, enough for his first music lesson with Franz Joseph Haydn

1901: Guglielmo Marconi successfully transmitted the first transatlantic radio signal from England to Canada

1955: British engineer Christopher Cockerell patented the hovercraft

2000: General Motors announced it was to phase out production of America's oldest automobile brand, the Oldsmobile, introduced in 1897

2015: Saudi Arabia held its first municipal elections in which women were allowed to vote

Picture: Newscom

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Today in History

December 13, 2009

▲ The presidents of Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and China inaugurated a landmark pipeline to transport natural gas from Central Asia to China

1937: Japanese forces captured the Chinese city of Nanking, killing around 300,000 people in the next six weeks

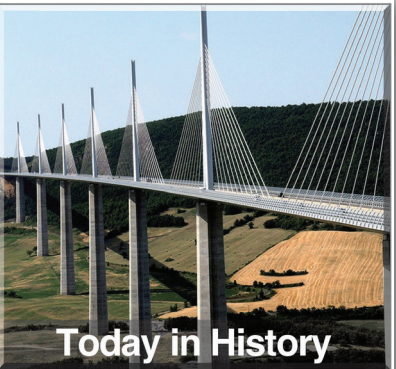
1949: Israel's Knesset voted to move the country's capital to Jerusalem, despite international opposition

1989: ANC president Nelson Mandela met South African leader FW de Klerk for the first time

2023: The first UN climate deal to call for a global transition away from fossil fuels was adopted at COP28

Picture: Getty Images

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Today in History

December 14, 2004

▲ The Millau viaduct, the world's tallest bridge, opened in southern France. The soaring, 343m-high structure spans the Tarn valley in the Massif Central mountains

1939: The Soviet Union was expelled from the League of Nations for aggression against Finland

1994: Australian botanists reported the discovery of living specimens of prehistoric Wollemi pine trees

1999: Germany agreed to create a \$5bn reparations fund to compensate people forced into slave labour in WWII

2004: Google agreed to digitise and make available the contents of millions of copyright-free books

Picture: Newscom

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