

GN46502 On this day in history Week52 - December 15-21



Today in History

December 15, 1964

▲ Canada adopted a new national flag featuring a single red maple leaf on a white background. It made its first official appearance on February 15, 1965

1654: A meteorological office in Tuscany, Italy, began taking the first daily temperature readings

1859: Ludwik Zamenhof, Polish linguist who created Esperanto, was born

1939: The movie 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly' was set in the American Civil War, produced by Clint Eastwood

1970: Venus became the first planet to land successfully on another planet (Venus)

Picture: Getty Images



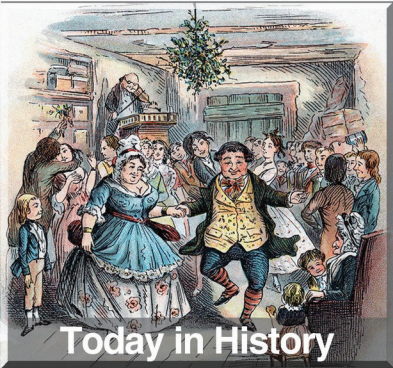
Today in History

December 16, 1979

▲ Australia's hairy-nosed wombat, one of the world's rarest large mammals, was said to be nearly extinct, but conservation efforts have since seen a slow recovery

1884: The first patent was issued for an automatic liquid vending machine

1944: The Battle of the Bulge, a major German offensive in World War II, ended



Today in History

December 17, 1843

▲ Charles Dickens' popular tale, A Christmas Carol, written as a social commentary to encourage people to help those in need, was published

1819: The newly-formed Republic of Colombia joined with Venezuela and Ecuador to form "Greater Colombia"

1928: The Christmas Battle, a naval battle, was fought



Today in History

December 18, 2023

▲ After weeks of earthquakes, a volcanic eruption caused major subsidence in and around the town of Grindavik, Iceland, which was evacuated in November

1865: Slavery was abolished across the United States and its territories following the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution



Today in History

December 19, 1999

▲ China resumed sovereignty over the territory of Macau after 442 years of Portuguese colonial rule. It is the only part of China where casino gambling is legal

1905: The world's first motorised ambulance service for victims of road accidents was set up in London

1984: Britain and China signed an agreement for the return of Hong Kong to China in 1997

1994: Former U.S. president Jimmy Carter managed to get Bosnia's warring factions to agree a four-month ceasefire

2009: Five Eurostar trains got stuck in the Channel Tunnel, trapping 2,000 people for 16 hours

Picture: Getty Images



Today in History

December 20, 1812

▲ Brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm published their first book of classic German folk tales, including Snow White and Little Red Riding Hood

1699: Peter the Great reorganized the Russian calendar so that the New Year began on January 1, not September 1

1951: The first electricity generated by nuclear power illuminated light bulbs in the U.S. state of Idaho

1989: U.S. troops invaded Panama to capture dictator Manuel Noriega, indicted in the U.S. over drug trafficking

2009: A U.S. general in Iraq added pregnancy to the list of reasons a soldier could face court martial

Picture: Newscom



Today in History

December 21, 1988

▲ A terrorist bomb exploded on board Pan Am flight 103 over the Scottish town of Lockerbie, killing all 259 people on board and 11 on the ground

1891: The first game of basketball, devised by a Canadian gym teacher, was played at a U.S. college

1979: A peace agreement on the future of Rhodesia was signed at a conference in London

2004: The super-sized Boeing Delta IV Heavy launched a new era in heavy lift capability for the U.S. space programme

2004: NASA said its Galaxy Explorer satellite had found dozens of recently formed galaxies

Picture: Getty Images

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