

Thursday, March 23

ON THIS DAY



▲ **1997:** American Tara Lipinski, aged 14, became the youngest ever world figure skating champion

1743: Britain's King George II rose to his feet at the premiere of Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, establishing a tradition of standing while it is played

1919: Benito Mussolini founded his own party, the Fasci di Combattimento, in Italy

2001: Russian ground controllers successfully ditched the 15-year-old *Mir* space station in the Pacific Ocean

2005: An explosion at BP's huge refinery in Texas City, Texas, killed 15 people and injured more than 100