January

1 **Ceres, the first asteroid, is discovered** (1801)

2 **Luna 1 becomes the first spacecraft to escape Earth's gravity** (1959)

3 **Apple Computer is incorporated** (1977)

4 **The rover Spirit lands on Mars** (2004)

5 **James Watt patents his improved steam engine** (1769)

6 **Morse and Vail first demonstrate the electric telegraph** (1838)

7 **The first transatlantic telephone call** (1927)

8 **Hollerith patents his punched-card tabulating machine** (1889)

9 **Steve Jobs introduces the iPhone** (2007)

10 **The world's first underground railway opens in London** (1863)

11 **Insulin is first given to a patient** (1922)

12 **Britain's National Trust is founded** (1895)

13 **The first public radio broadcast** (1910)

14 **The Huygens probe lands on Titan** (2005)

15 **The young Abdulaziz recovers Riyadh** (1902)

16 **Explorers reach the South Magnetic Pole** (1909)

17 **Cook's ships are the first to cross the Antarctic Circle** (1773)

18 **The Paris Peace Conference opens** (1919)

19 **New Horizons sets off for Pluto** (2006)

20 **A patent for the roller coaster** (1885)

21 **Concorde begins passenger flights** (1976)

22 **The Boeing 747 jumbo jet enters service** (1970)

23 **Two explorers dive to the deepest point of the ocean** (1960)

24 **Apple launches the Macintosh** (1984)

25 **The first Winter Olympics open in Chamonix** (1924)

26 **John Logie Baird demonstrates television** (1926)

27 **Edison receives his patent for the electric lamp** (1880)

28 **Pride and Prejudice is published** (1813)

29 **Karl Benz patents the motor car** (1886)

30 **The Beatles play their last live concert, on a rooftop** (1969)

31 **Explorer 1, America's first satellite, is launched** (1958)

February

1 **The first part of the Oxford English Dictionary appears** (1884)

2 **Countries sign a treaty to protect wetlands** (1971)

3 **Luna 9 makes the first soft landing on the Moon** (1966)

4 **Facebook is launched** (2004)

5 **The BBC broadcasts its time signal 'pips' for the first time** (1924)

6 **Elizabeth II becomes Queen** (1952)

7 **An astronaut flies free in space** (1984)

8 **The Boy Scouts of America is founded** (1910)

9 **Volleyball is invented** (1895)

10 **A computer beats the world chess champion in a game** (1996)

11 **Scientists announce they have detected gravitational waves** (2016)

12 **Charles Darwin is born** (1809)

13 **The Lumière brothers patent the cinématographe** (1895)

14 **ENIAC, an early electronic computer, is unveiled** (1946)

15 **A meteor explodes over Chelyabinsk** (2013)

16 **Howard Carter opens Tutankhamun's burial chamber** (1923)

17 **The first weather satellite is launched** (1959)

18 **Clyde Tombaugh discovers Pluto** (1930)

19 **Edison patents the phonograph** (1878)

20 **John Glenn becomes the first American to orbit Earth** (1962)

21 **The first railway journey by a steam locomotive** (1804)

22 **Founding Day: the First Saudi State is founded** (1727)

23 **Rudolf Diesel is granted a patent for his engine** (1893)

24 **Astronomers announce the discovery of pulsars** (1968)

25 **An early electric motor is patented** (1837)

26 **Radar is demonstrated in Britain** (1935)

27 **James Chadwick reports the neutron** (1932)

28 **Watson and Crick work out the structure of DNA** (1953)

29 **Tunnellers break through the Gotthard rail tunnel** (1880)

March

1 **Yellowstone becomes the world's first national park** (1872)

2 **Concorde makes its first flight** (1969)

3 **Bizet's opera Carmen is first performed** (1875)

4 **Scotland's Forth Bridge opens** (1890)

5 **Voyager 1 flies past Jupiter** (1979)

6 **Mendeleev's periodic table is presented** (1869)

7 **Alexander Graham Bell is granted the telephone patent** (1876)

8 **Philips shows the compact disc** (1979)

9 **The Barbie doll goes on sale** (1959)

10 **Astronomers discover the rings of Uranus** (1977)

11 **The first daily newspaper in English is published** (1702)

12 **Tim Berners-Lee proposes the World Wide Web** (1989)

13 **William Herschel discovers Uranus** (1781)

14 **Albert Einstein is born** (1879)

15 **The first .com internet address is registered** (1985)

16 **Robert Goddard launches the first liquid-fuelled rocket** (1926)

17 **The rubber band is patented** (1845)

18 **Alexei Leonov makes the first spacewalk** (1965)

19 **The Sydney Harbour Bridge opens** (1932)

20 **Volta describes the first battery** (1800)

21 **The first tweet is sent** (2006)

22 **A patent for the laser is granted** (1960)

23 **'OK' appears in print for the first time** (1839)

24 **Robert Koch announces the cause of tuberculosis** (1882)

25 **The first fare-paying railway passengers** (1807)

26 **Jonas Salk announces a polio vaccine** (1953)

27 **Marconi sends a radio message across the English Channel** (1899)

28 **Constantinople officially becomes Istanbul** (1930)

29 **Mariner 10 makes the first visit to Mercury** (1974)

30 **The United States agrees to buy Alaska** (1867)

31 **The Eiffel Tower is inaugurated** (1889)

April

1 **Google launches Gmail** (2004)

2 **The first photograph of the Sun is taken** (1845)

3 **The first call from a handheld mobile phone** (1973)

4 **Microsoft is founded** (1975)

5 **European sailors reach Easter Island** (1722)

6 **The first modern Olympic Games open in Athens** (1896)

7 **The World Health Organization is founded** (1948)

8 **The Venus de Milo statue is found** (1820)

9 **NASA introduces its first astronauts** (1959)

10 **The first image of a black hole is revealed** (2019)

11 **Apollo 13 launches towards the Moon** (1970)

12 **Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human in space** (1961)

13 **Tiger Woods wins the Masters at 21** (1997)

14 **The Human Genome Project is completed** (2003)

15 **The Titanic sinks** (1912)

16 **India's first passenger train runs** (1853)

17 **Geraldine Mock flies solo around the world** (1964)

18 **An earthquake strikes San Francisco** (1906)

19 **Gordon Moore predicts the growth of computer chips** (1965)

20 **Marie and Pierre Curie isolate radium** (1902)

21 **Brasília becomes Brazil's capital** (1960)

22 **The first Earth Day** (1970)

23 **The first video is posted on YouTube** (2005)

24 **The Hubble Space Telescope is launched** (1990)

25 **Saudi Arabia launches Vision 2030** (2016)

26 **The Chernobyl nuclear accident** (1986)

27 **The Airbus A380 makes its first flight** (2005)

28 **The Kon-Tiki raft sets sail across the Pacific** (1947)

29 **An electric car becomes the first to pass 100 km/h** (1899)

30 **CERN makes the World Wide Web free for everyone** (1993)

May

1 **The Great Exhibition opens in London** (1851)

2 **The first jet airliner passenger service** (1952)

3 **The first spam email is sent** (1978)

4 **The United States takes over building the Panama Canal** (1904)

5 **Alan Shepard becomes the first American in space** (1961)

6 **Roger Bannister runs the first four-minute mile** (1954)

7 **Beethoven's Ninth Symphony is first performed** (1824)

8 **Smallpox is declared eradicated** (1980)

9 **The Schuman Declaration proposes European cooperation** (1950)

10 **The golden spike completes America's first transcontinental railroad** (1869)

11 **Siam is renamed Thailand** (1949)

12 **Florence Nightingale is born** (1820)

13 **Churchill offers 'blood, toil, tears and sweat'** (1940)

14 **Edward Jenner gives the first vaccination** (1796)

15 **Nylon stockings go on sale across the United States** (1940)

16 **The first Academy Awards are presented** (1929)

17 **The International Telegraph Union is founded** (1865)

18 **Mount St Helens erupts** (1980)

19 **Earth passes through the tail of Halley's Comet** (1910)

20 **Charles Lindbergh sets off to fly solo across the Atlantic** (1927)

21 **Saudi astronauts launch to the International Space Station** (2023)

22 **Pac-Man is released** (1980)

23 **The Java programming language is released** (1995)

24 **New York's Brooklyn Bridge opens** (1883)

25 **Star Wars opens in cinemas** (1977)

26 **Bram Stoker's Dracula is published** (1897)

27 **San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge opens** (1937)

28 **Two monkeys return safely from space** (1959)

29 **Hillary and Tenzing reach the top of Everest** (1953)

30 **The first crewed launch by a private spacecraft** (2020)

31 **The Big Ben clock starts keeping time** (1859)

June

1 **CNN launches the first 24-hour news channel** (1980)

2 **The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II is televised** (1953)

3 **Ed White makes the first American spacewalk** (1965)

4 **The Montgolfier brothers fly a hot-air balloon in public** (1783)

5 **The first UN conference on the environment opens** (1972)

6 **D-Day: Allied forces land in Normandy** (1944)

7 **The first Cricket World Cup begins** (1975)

8 **George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four is published** (1949)

9 **Secretariat wins horse racing's Triple Crown** (1973)

10 **The first Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race** (1829)

11 **Jacques Cousteau is born** (1910)

12 **A pedal-powered plane flies across the English Channel** (1979)

13 **Pioneer 10 passes beyond the outer planets** (1983)

14 **UNIVAC I, the first US commercial computer, is delivered** (1951)

15 **Charles Goodyear patents vulcanised rubber** (1844)

16 **Valentina Tereshkova becomes the first woman in space** (1963)

17 **Prince Sultan bin Salman becomes the first Arab in space** (1985)

18 **The Battle of Waterloo** (1815)

19 **An early baseball game is played under modern rules** (1846)

20 **Victoria becomes Queen** (1837)

21 **The Manchester Baby runs the first stored program** (1948)

22 **King Charles II founds the Royal Observatory, Greenwich** (1675)

23 **A patent for the typewriter is granted** (1868)

24 **A battle inspires the founding of the Red Cross** (1859)

25 **Stravinsky's ballet The Firebird is first performed** (1910)

26 **The United Nations Charter is signed** (1945)

27 **The world's first cash machine opens** (1967)

28 **The Treaty of Versailles is signed** (1919)

29 **An American shuttle docks with the Russian space station Mir** (1995)

30 **A huge explosion flattens a Siberian forest** (1908)

July

1 **Canada becomes a self-governing dominion** (1867)

2 **The first Zeppelin airship flies** (1900)

3 **Mallard sets the world speed record for steam** (1938)

4 **Scientists announce the discovery of the Higgs boson** (2012)

5 **Isaac Newton's Principia is published** (1687)

6 **Louis Pasteur saves a boy with a rabies vaccine** (1885)

7 **Sliced bread goes on sale** (1928)

8 **The last space shuttle mission launches** (2011)

9 **The first Wimbledon tennis championship begins** (1877)

10 **Telstar, the first communications satellite to relay TV, is launched** (1962)

11 **The world's population reaches five billion** (1987)

12 **The James Webb Space Telescope's first images are revealed** (2022)

13 **Live Aid concerts raise money for famine relief** (1985)

14 **The storming of the Bastille** (1789)

15 **The Rosetta Stone is found** (1799)

16 **Apollo 11 launches for the Moon** (1969)

17 **Disneyland opens in California** (1955)

18 **Intel is founded** (1968)

19 **Brunel's SS Great Britain is launched** (1843)

20 **Humans walk on the Moon for the first time** (1969)

21 **The coldest temperature on Earth is recorded** (1983)

22 **Wiley Post completes the first solo flight around the world** (1933)

23 **The Chandra X-ray Observatory is launched** (1999)

24 **Hiram Bingham reaches Machu Picchu** (1911)

25 **Louis Blériot flies across the English Channel** (1909)

26 **The first book of Esperanto is published** (1887)

27 **Banting and Best isolate insulin** (1921)

28 **The First World War begins** (1914)

29 **NASA is created** (1958)

30 **Uruguay wins the first FIFA World Cup** (1930)

31 **The first US patent is granted** (1790)

August

1 **MTV goes on the air** (1981)

2 **San Francisco's cable car makes its first run** (1873)

3 **A submarine reaches the North Pole under the ice** (1958)

4 **The Billboard Hot 100 chart begins** (1958)

5 **The first electric traffic light is installed** (1914)

6 **The first website goes public** (1991)

7 **The first photograph of Earth from orbit** (1959)

8 **The Beijing Olympics open** (2008)

9 **Jesse Owens wins his fourth Olympic gold** (1936)

10 **The Louvre opens as a public museum** (1793)

11 **A total solar eclipse crosses Europe and Asia** (1999)

12 **IBM launches its Personal Computer** (1981)

13 **Stainless steel is first made** (1913)

14 **Japan announces its surrender, ending the Second World War** (1945)

15 **The Panama Canal opens** (1914)

16 **Gold is found in the Klondike** (1896)

17 **A balloon crosses the Atlantic for the first time** (1978)

18 **Helium is discovered in the Sun** (1868)

19 **Photography is given to the world** (1839)

20 **Voyager 2 is launched** (1977)

21 **The Mona Lisa is stolen** (1911)

22 **The first Geneva Convention is signed** (1864)

23 **The first photograph of Earth from the Moon** (1966)

24 **Pluto is reclassified as a dwarf planet** (2006)

25 **Linus Torvalds announces Linux** (1991)

26 **American women win the right to vote** (1920)

27 **Krakatoa erupts** (1883)

28 **Scientific American is first published** (1845)

29 **Faraday discovers electromagnetic induction** (1831)

30 **Guion Bluford becomes the first African American in space** (1983)

31 **A model solar-powered car is demonstrated** (1955)

September

1 **The Second World War begins** (1939)

2 **The Great Fire of London begins** (1666)

3 **Viking 2 lands on Mars** (1976)

4 **Google is founded** (1998)

5 **Voyager 1 is launched** (1977)

6 **The first voyage around the world is completed** (1522)

7 **Brazil declares independence** (1822)

8 **Star Trek is first broadcast** (1966)

9 **The first computer 'bug' is found** (1947)

10 **The Large Hadron Collider starts up** (2008)

11 **Mars Global Surveyor reaches Mars** (1997)

12 **Kennedy says 'We choose to go to the Moon'** (1962)

13 **Roald Dahl is born** (1916)

14 **Britain changes its calendar and skips 11 days** (1752)

15 **The Liverpool and Manchester Railway opens** (1830)

16 **The Montreal Protocol to protect the ozone layer is signed** (1987)

17 **The US Constitution is signed** (1787)

18 **The New York Times is first published** (1851)

19 **A sheep, a duck and a rooster fly in a balloon** (1783)

20 **The first Cannes Film Festival opens** (1946)

21 **The Hobbit is published** (1937)

22 **National Geographic magazine is first published** (1888)

23 **Saudi National Day: the Kingdom is unified** (1932)

24 **The first powered airship flight** (1852)

25 **The first transatlantic telephone cable opens** (1956)

26 **The Beatles release Abbey Road** (1969)

27 **The Stockton and Darlington Railway opens** (1825)

28 **Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin** (1928)

29 **CERN is founded** (1954)

30 **The Hoover Dam is dedicated** (1935)

October

1 **The Ford Model T goes on sale** (1908)

2 **The Peanuts comic strip is first published** (1950)

3 **Germany is reunified** (1990)

4 **Sputnik, the first artificial satellite, is launched** (1957)

5 **Portugal becomes a republic** (1910)

6 **The Jazz Singer brings sound to feature films** (1927)

7 **The first photographs of the Moon's far side** (1959)

8 **The Great Chicago Fire** (1871)

9 **The Universal Postal Union is founded** (1874)

10 **Triton, Neptune's largest moon, is discovered** (1846)

11 **Theodore Roosevelt becomes the first president to fly** (1910)

12 **The world's population reaches six billion** (1999)

13 **Greenwich is chosen as the Prime Meridian** (1884)

14 **Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier** (1947)

15 **The Cassini spacecraft is launched to Saturn** (1997)

16 **Ether anaesthesia is shown in public** (1846)

17 **Calder Hall nuclear power station opens** (1956)

18 **The British Broadcasting Company is formed** (1922)

19 **Black Monday: stock markets crash** (1987)

20 **The Sydney Opera House is opened** (1973)

21 **Edison's light bulb burns for over 13 hours** (1879)

22 **The first parachute jump from a balloon** (1797)

23 **Apple introduces the iPod** (2001)

24 **The United Nations comes into being** (1945)

25 **The first microwave oven for the home goes on sale** (1955)

26 **The Football Association is founded** (1863)

27 **The New York City Subway opens** (1904)

28 **The Statue of Liberty is dedicated** (1886)

29 **The first message is sent over the internet's ancestor** (1969)

30 **The War of the Worlds radio broadcast** (1938)

31 **The world's population reaches seven billion** (2011)

November

1 **The great Lisbon earthquake** (1755)

2 **The BBC starts the world's first regular high-definition TV service** (1936)

3 **Laika becomes the first animal to orbit the Earth** (1957)

4 **The cash register is patented** (1879)

5 **India launches its first mission to Mars** (2013)

6 **Abraham Lincoln is elected US president** (1860)

7 **Marie Curie is born** (1867)

8 **Wilhelm Röntgen discovers X-rays** (1895)

9 **The Berlin Wall falls** (1989)

10 **'Dr Livingstone, I presume?'** (1871)

11 **The First World War ends** (1918)

12 **A spacecraft lands on a comet for the first time** (2014)

13 **The first helicopter flight** (1907)

14 **Mariner 9 becomes the first spacecraft to orbit another planet** (1971)

15 **Intel announces the first commercial microprocessor** (1971)

16 **UNESCO is founded** (1945)

17 **The Suez Canal opens** (1869)

18 **Railways create standard time zones** (1883)

19 **Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address** (1863)

20 **Microsoft releases Windows 1.0** (1985)

21 **Saudi Arabia hosts the G20 leaders' summit** (2020)

22 **Saudi Arabia beats Argentina at the World Cup** (2022)

23 **The first jukebox plays in San Francisco** (1889)

24 **Darwin publishes On the Origin of Species** (1859)

25 **The Mousetrap opens in London** (1952)

26 **Howard Carter sees 'wonderful things' in Tutankhamun's tomb** (1922)

27 **Alfred Nobel signs the will that creates the Nobel Prizes** (1895)

28 **Riyadh wins the right to host Expo 2030** (2023)

29 **The first flight over the South Pole** (1929)

30 **The first international football match** (1872)

December

1 **Ford starts its moving assembly line** (1913)

2 **Napoleon is crowned Emperor of the French** (1804)

3 **The first human heart transplant** (1967)

4 **The mystery ship Mary Celeste is found** (1872)

5 **The Great Smog of London begins** (1952)

6 **Edison records his voice on the phonograph** (1877)

7 **Apollo 17 launches and photographs the 'Blue Marble'** (1972)

8 **The Clifton Suspension Bridge opens** (1864)

9 **The 'Mother of All Demos' shows the future of computing** (1968)

10 **The first Nobel Prizes are awarded** (1901)

11 **Saudi Arabia is confirmed as host of the 2034 World Cup** (2024)

12 **Marconi receives the first transatlantic radio signal** (1901)

13 **Gershwin's An American in Paris premieres** (1928)

14 **Roald Amundsen reaches the South Pole** (1911)

15 **The first successful landing on another planet** (1970)

16 **The Boston Tea Party** (1773)

17 **The Wright brothers make the first powered flight** (1903)

18 **Slavery is abolished in the United States** (1865)

19 **The last crewed Moon mission returns** (1972)

20 **Nuclear power first lights electric bulbs** (1951)

21 **Apollo 8 sets off to orbit the Moon** (1968)

22 **The first X-ray image of a human hand** (1895)

23 **The transistor is demonstrated** (1947)

24 **The Earthrise photograph is taken** (1968)

25 **The James Webb Space Telescope launches** (2021)

26 **Marie and Pierre Curie announce radium** (1898)

27 **Darwin sets sail on HMS Beagle** (1831)

28 **The first public film screening** (1895)

29 **Richard Feynman imagines nanotechnology** (1959)

30 **The Soviet Union is formed** (1922)

31 **Panama takes full control of the Panama Canal** (1999)